Hafa Adai!

Public hearing today on US military tests in the CNMI. PAGE 2
CNMI wants CDC explanation on high-risk advisory. PAGE 3

75¢

Saipan Tribune

SUBSISTENCE FARMING
Participants in the Carolinian Affairs Office's *Tepengi Kkosch Refaluwasch*/Caring for Our Carolinian Culture program learn the basics of subsistence farming last week at the CAO grounds in Garapan. Here the children learn how to plant tapioca.
IVA MAURIN

Volume XXX, Issue No. 158
TUESDAY AUGUST 11, 2020
www.saipantribune.com
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Lost wages assistance OK'd but...

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. President Donald J. Trump is making available a supplemental assistance of $400 weekly to Americans until December, as part of a lost wages assistance program. However, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has to request for it, and the CNMI government has to shoulder 25% of the assistance.

In an executive memorandum released Aug. 8, Trump directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist in providing benefits from the disaster recovery fund and

See LOST on Page 4

NMC fall semester to be 90% online

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After an initial plan to implement a mix of online classes and in-person instruction for the upcoming fall semester, the Northern Marianas College has now decided to offer 90% of its classes online.

To help maximize student and employee safety, NMC's upcoming fall semester will be offered mostly online, with 90% of the 247 classes to be taught virtually or online, and only 10% will be taught in a face-to-face class; this mix is what is referred to

See NMC on Page 4

Audit bares CCC board member's spouse had a lease deal with IPI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An independent audit under the Office of the Public Auditor has found out that a spouse of a Commonwealth Casino Commission board member entered into a lease deal for a warehouse with Saipan's exclusive casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

The CCC management is unable to determine whether the lease agreement is of similar terms and conditions that would prevail in "arm's length transactions," said

See AUDIT on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 8:30pm, Aug. 10, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	412	6	418
Recovered	321	4	325
Active	82	6	88
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			24,501

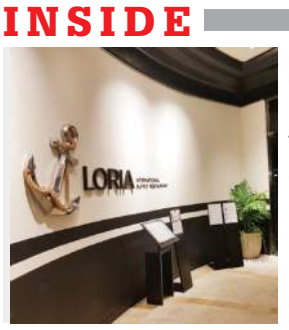
SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	48	1	49
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,301**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

INSIDE



LOCAL
Buffet eating without the buffet. That, in short, is what "a la minute buffet" is at Loria.

PAGE 6

BUSINESS
Country House Restaurant in Garapan is now open for dine-in or take-out services.

PAGE 11

ASIA
Three days of heavy monsoon rains killed at least 58 people in various parts of Pakistan.

PAGE 12

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Public hearing today on US military testing in the CNMI

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

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Asked to appear before the lawmakers are officials from the Bureau of Military Affairs, the Saipan Legislative Delegation, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Saipan Mayor's Office, and the Saipan Municipal Council.

The public may also be allowed to speak to air their concerns.

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Committee member Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) is calling on everybody to reach out to leaders, representatives, and to members of the group Our Common Wealth 670, and let them know that this military concern is important to them as it will have an impact on tourism, commerce, everyone's quality of life, health and community welfare.

"We as a community really need to stay on top of this because it has an overall impact on our everyday lives. …The sense of urgency is there," she said in an interview.

Babauta also said that she wants to hear from those who support the military testing and trainings. "[I'd] really like to understand…their perspective. Why would we support this kind of destructive activity, and what benefit are we going to realize, given the negative impact that it'll have on our people and on our land?" she said. "It's so alarming to me. …I just don't support a future that is going to be full of bombs and testing centers and restricted air spaces and poisonous agents and materials in our water and in our soils. What are we opening our doors to?"

As for the joint resolution, Babauta said they have reached out many times to the Bureau of Military Affairs and to the Governor's Office for a meeting, which has yet to happen.

Were original documents also redacted?

The House Special Committee for Fiscal Review of Executive Expenditures has hit a roadblock in its review of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditure after receiving a statement from Department of Finance's director of Administrative Services Margaret Bertha Torres that personal and confidential information were redacted from the documents that were given to the committee.

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Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) introduced the motion to summon, which also includes other individuals who signed off and certified the governor's reimbursements, to explain why and how original records that the lawmakers have asked for were redacted.

The special committee is currently reviewing the governor's purchases and reimbursement requests, with the minority bloc able to count at least 17 credit cards used in the transactions, based on the documents that had been leaked on social media.

According to Sablan, and reading of Margaret Bertha Torres' statement that she instructed Finance employees to redact all personal information from the documents, ait appears that the original documents being kept by the department were also redacted.

While it is true that agencies may redact personal or confidential information pursuant to the Open Government Act, they have to cite a specific exemption that allows them to do that and to justify the redaction of any public records, Sablan said.

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"That's the role and that is the authority of the investigative committee. What troubles me is the fact that Finance redacted the original, so now this committee is not able to even get these original records so that we can properly do an investigation," Sablan said.

Floor leader Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), during the session, stressed that there needs to be a further investigation, given the redacted information.

The House special committee will be on recess until Thursday. ***(Iva Maurin)***

AG advises task force to charge noncompliant

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government has yet to file charges against anyone who fails to comply with quarantine and testing requirements, despite the strong advice of Attorney General Edward Manibusan for the COVID-19 Task Force to do so.

Warren Villagomez, who heads the task force, said in a radio briefing last Aug. 4 that they have not charged yet those who have defied quarantine executive orders. "We haven't charged anyone, we haven't put anyone away but the attorney general had come out with a strong statement and actually we're going to be enforcing that to the people that are noncompliant will face consequences," said Villagomez.

He said that they are still working to make sure that the structures and process will be followed. Villagomez stated that if there are no shows on the fifth day of testing, as required, the Department of Public Safety has warrants to bring them in for testing.

Additionally, in the CNMI, Saipan is the only island to not only have one but two quarantine sites and, even if Rota and Tinian do not have quarantine sites, DPS and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services are involved with those who need to be in home quarantine.

"If a person needs to be in home quarantine, DPS will be at your front door [and] making sure that the island is safe," said Villagomez. The same procedure also goes for Saipan.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

TanHoldings employees have their picture taken after participating in a company-led cleanup last Friday along the Beach Road Pathway.

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Local

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OAG: Settlement Fund a distraction to the actual issue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General argues that the NMI Settlement Fund is only distracting the Superior Court from the actual issue in dispute relating to the lawsuit filed by the Public School System and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada for its share of the CNMI's annual budget.

The issue before the Superior Court is whether PSS has established that the appropriations listed in PSS and Ada's complaint constitute general rather than special revenue, said assistant attorney general John P. Lowrey, who is counsel for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig.

In Torres and Atalig's reply to the NMI Settlement Fund's opposition to Ada and PSS' motion for summary judgment, Lowrey said PSS contends that a factual inquiry is not required for the court to rule that these revenues are general rather than special.

Lowrey

Lowrey said Torres and Atalig contend that PSS failed to meet its burden on summary judgment because it presented no facts establishing its entitlement to judgment.

Lowrey said the Settlement Fund as an intervenor "curiously makes no contention regarding this issue" at all, and instead "takes no position" on the sole issue before the court.

Not only is the Settlement Fund's opposition unhelpful, he said, but it also misconstrues both the complaint and PSS' motion for summary judgment, and only serves to distract the court from the actual issue in dispute.

Accordingly, Lowrey said, the court should disregard the Settlement Fund's opposition.

Lowrey asked the court to find that PSS failed to establish through undisputed facts that the revenues listed in its motion are general, and therefore deny its motion for summary judgment.

He said the Settlement Fund misconstrues this case as one concerned with payment of debt obligations.

He noted that the Settlement Fund mistakenly uses terms and concepts like "priority" and "judgment creditor," which are typically reserve for tax, bankruptcy, or collection cases.

Lowrey pointed out that because the Settlement Fund sees this as a debt collection matter, it argues that it is owed money under the Betty Johnson class action's settlement agreement and it should be paid before PSS. Tthe settlement agreement in Johnson's class action, however, is not in dispute here, he said.

Lowrey pointed out that, as a party to the Johnson settlement agreement, the Settlement Fund can enforce (and is enforcing) its rights in the appropriate forum, and that this is not that forum.

"This case is not about payments out of the Commonwealth's coffers, but about the classification of revenues coming in," he said.

In particular, Lowrey said, it is about revenue categorization and the methodology for classifying some revenues as special and others as general—the very issue on which the Settlement Fund takes no position.

Lowrey said issue before this court is whether the standard of the CNMI Supreme Court in a certified question petition requires a factual inquiry into the source of revenue and purpose of the fund, and whether PSS has made this factual showing. Lowrey said the Settlement Fund offers nothing to assist the court

See OAG on Next Page

OVR closed on Aug.14

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will be closed for professional development on Friday, Aug. 14, 2020. For concerns or matters that require immediate attention, call (670) 287-6538. ***(PR)***

CNMI wants CDC explanation on high-risk advisory

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña is adding her voice to that of Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, who had complained about the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issuing a health advisory that designates both Guam and the CNMI as high-risk areas for COVID-19.

Muña, who disputes the CDC's designation of the CNMI and describes it as inaccurate, has written to CDC to ask it for the reasoning in how it came up with the travel health advisory.

"All Pacific islands, even those with no confirmed [COVID-19] cases, were placed on the same category of high risk," Muna said.

The Pacific Islands that were placed in the same category are Guam, American Samoa, Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, which includes Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap.

In an earlier radio briefing last Aug. 4, Muna stated that Guam is merely a gateway to a high-risk area. "They may be in Guam for a week or less than a week but if they have traveled from somewhere else, [that makes Guam] a gateway to the high-risk carriers, so we are concerned and we do quarantine individuals," said Muña.

If an individual comes in from a high-risk area, whether it is the United States, Guam, or elsewhere, even if they have a polymerase chain reaction test, they will still be quarantined until CHCC gives them a green light to be released, she said.

While Guam's positive rate is 1.6% out of 23,840 tests, the overall percent positive rate in the CNMI is 0.1%, and out of the assumption that the CNMI's population, including Rota and Tinian, is about 50,000, 26.76% has already been tested. CDC's data shows that the U.S. has a higher positive rate, which is 8.7%, with its population at 328.2 million.

As of Aug. 10, Guam has 418 cases, the CNMI has 48, while the other islands have none.

Former DJ's suit vs CHCC, Muña, others dismissed

The federal court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a former disc jockey against the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., its chief executive officer, Esther Muña, and three others after he was allegedly chemically restrained in the hospital without his consent and over his objection.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the case on Thursday after the parties reached a settlement. Aziz Peter Mettao can no longer refile his lawsuit.

The parties agreed to the dismissal of the case after reaching a settlement. Court documents did not indicate whether the settlement agreement is sealed or not.

Mettao had served prison term for setting fire to a car in 2012. He was arrested again last April for terroristic threatening.

Mettao had also named as defendants in the lawsuit Dr. Martin Philip Rohringer, Dr. Ashebir T. Chekol, and registered nurse Joshua Tanghal.

Mettao, through Jeanne H. Rayphand of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc., also suied 10 unnamed CHCC employees.

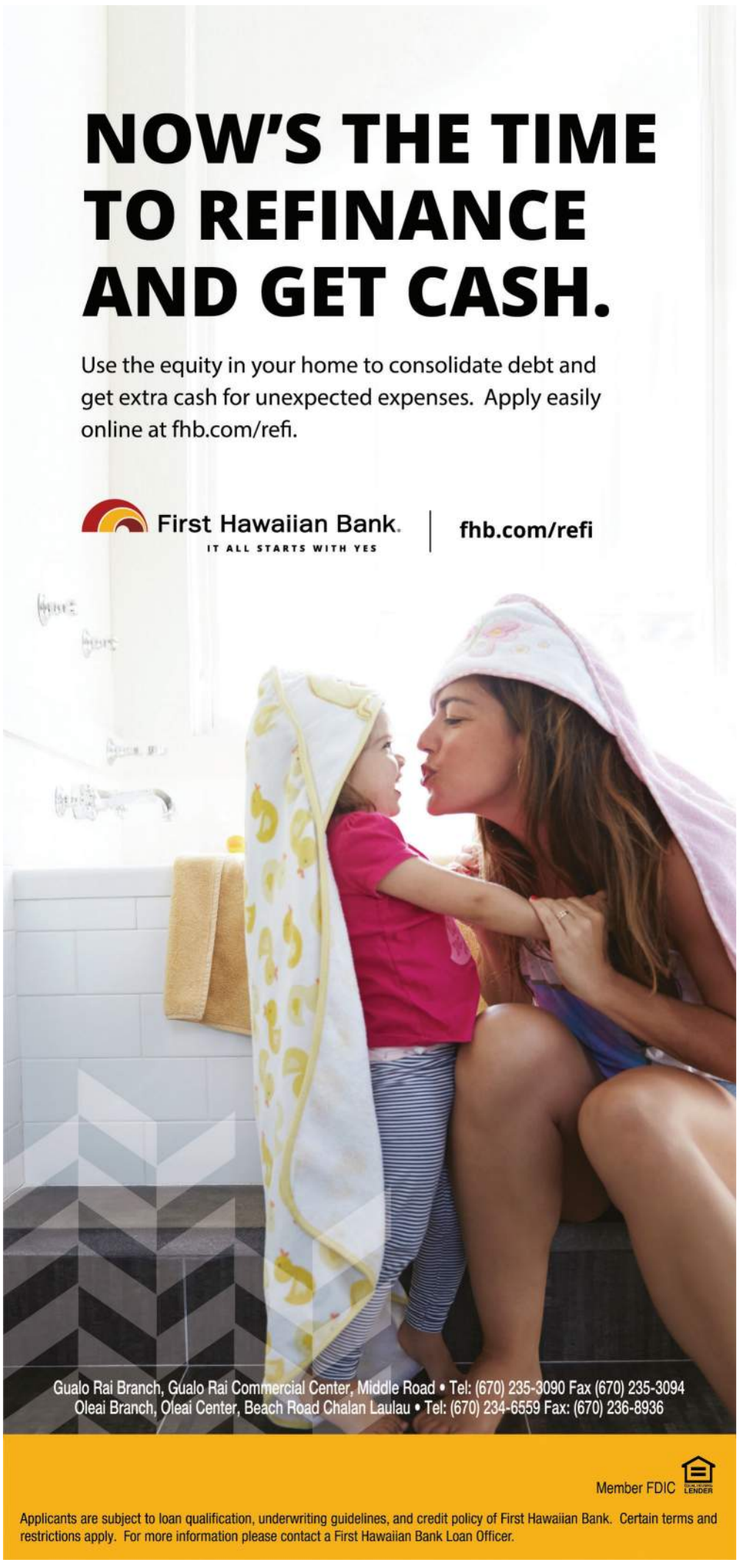
The plaintiff was suing the defendants for violation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution for deprivation of liberty without due process of law, violation of the CNMI Constitution for unreasonable seizure, violation of Involuntary Commitment Act, and violation of Patient's Rights Act.

Mettao asked the District Court to hold the defendants liable to pay him $100,000 in compensatory damages.

He requested the court to issue an order directing Muna to provide ongoing education and training for all Commonwealth Health Center, physicians, nurses, security personnel and staff who have direct patient contact.

Rayphand said the training should be provided within 30 days for all current CHCC employees, within 30 days of initial employment for new employees, and at least once per year thereafter for all employees.

According to Rayphand in the complaint, on Nov. 10, 2019 at 1:30pm, CNMI police officers brought Mettao to CHC's emergency room on Saipan. She said the officers did not file an application for a 72-hour emergency detention. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***


NOW'S THE TIME TO REFINANCE AND GET CASH.
Use the equity in your home to consolidate debt and get extra cash for unexpected expenses. Apply easily online at fhb.com/refi.
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Applicants are subject to loan qualification, underwriting guidelines, and credit policy of First Hawaiian Bank. Certain terms and restrictions apply. For more information please contact a First Hawaiian Bank Loan Officer.

Road-paving project on Tinian breaks ground

The Tinian Mayor's Office broke ground yesterday morning on a road-paving project at Marpo Heights II on Tinian, signaling the official start to a road-paving project that has been long awaited by residents in that area.

Raena Pangelinan, project manager of Tinian Mayor's Office, said the project has been an ongoing discussion that has been in the works for the past 20 years, "challenged by funding availability and priorities."

She said that past CNMI administrations and leadership have tried to tap several funding sources for this project, such as Federal Highway Administration, Capital Improvement Project, and Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Program, but were all unsuccessful. Finally, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Tinian Leadership negotiated with the Divert Airfield project with the U.S. Department of Defense in 2018 to get the project done.

Seabees assigned to U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3's Detail Tinian install a gable-end on a Southwest Asia hut being constructed on Camp Tinian.

MARCUS HENLEY

The project will be executed by U.S. Naval Construction Battalions, better known as the Navy Seabees, of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3 in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and the Pacific Engineering Group Services, and will be spearheaded and handled by the Tinian Mayor's Offices' Projects Management Division.

"The project currently doesn't have a deadline time frame at the moment due to COVID-19's restrictions and possible delays of materials and equipment being shipped into Tinian," said Pangelinan.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan said this project is unique as it is the first of its kind and is a collaboration of multiple government agencies spanning federal, state, and municipal levels. "Unlike any other project in the CNMI to date…this is a prime example of how the CNMI government and the Municipality of Tinian can partner with the Department of Defense for the benefit of our people," said Aldan. "And as the Divert Airfield project is scheduled to start construction next year, we look forward to that project, as well as other IRT projects, being the catalyst to restart Tinian's local economy by providing employment and business opportunities for our community."

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, who attended the groundbreaking, recognized the importance of having a strong partnership between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Commonwealth, particularly with the Tinian residents who are most impacted by military-related activities.

"We are excited about the economic opportunities that will result from the divert project construction," he said. "These are the type of opportunities that the people of Tinian have long yearned for when two-thirds of Tinian was leased to the military. These opportunities can only come through a strong partnership with the Department of Defense."

He promised that he and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will continue to fight for more of these types of opportunities for Tinian. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

AUDIT

From Page 1

Deloitte & Touche LLC, referring to a business deal in which buyers and sellers act independently without one party influencing the other.

Deloitte's audit did not name the board member and the spouse. It also did not specify whether he is a current or a former board member.

OPA hired Deloitte to conduct the independent audit on CCC's internal control and on compliance for the year ended Sept. 30, 2018.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for comments from IPI.

Deloitte said the warehouse transaction may not be at arm's length, which is not compliant with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, as adequate evidence has not been provided. Deloitte recommends that CCC await the results of an investigation, if an investigation occurs.

In CCC's response and corrective action plan, then-CCC acting executive director Charlie Atalig disclosed that CCC provided the Office of the Attorney General with information regarding the payments in question, and the proper investigative agency has been provided with enough information to begin an investigation.

Deloitte considers the warehouse issue a "material weakness" that it identified as a deficiency in CCC's internal control. The auditing firm defines deficiency in internal control as "when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis."

Deloitte also defines material weakness as "a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected or corrected on a timely basis."

LOST

From Page 1

directed states, including territories, to use their Coronavirus Relief Fund, to provide financial relief to Americans who lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

The President directed up to $44 billion from the Disaster Recovery Fund to cover for the statutorily mandated 75% federal cost share.

"I am calling on states to use amounts allocated to them out of the CRF, or other state funding, to provide temporary enhanced financial support to those whose jobs or wages have been adversely affected by COVID-19," he said. "These funds, including those currently used to support state unemployment insurance programs, may be applied as the state's cost share with federal DRF funds."

Trump also directed states to identify funds to be spent without a federal match should the total DRF balance deplete to $25 billion, to ensure those affected continue to receive supplemental benefits for weeks of unemployment ending no later than Dec. 27, 2020.

If the governor requests for the lost wages assistance and agrees to administer delivery and provide oversight of the program, the Homeland Security secretary, through the FEMA administrator, is authorized to make available other needs assistance for lost wages to the CNMI.

Torres, however, should agree to the cost-sharing requirement, administer the delivery of financial assistance for lost wages in conjunction with the CNMI's unemployment insurance system.

"The secretary, acting through the FEMA administrator, shall, subject to the limitations approve a lost wages assistance program that authorizes the governor to provide a $400 payment per week, which shall reflect a $300 federal contribution, to eligible claimants from the week of unemployment ending Aug. 1, 2020," the executive order states.

Eligible claimants are those who receive, for the week lost wages assistance is sought, at least $100 per week of any of the following benefits: unemployment compensation; Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation; Pandemic Unemployment Assistance; Extended Benefits; Short-Time Compensation; Trade Readjustment Allowance; or payments under the Self-Employment Assistant program; and provide self-certification that they are unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.

The lost wages assistance program shall be available until the balance of the DRF reaches $25 billion or for weeks of unemployment ending not later than Dec. 6, 2020, whichever occurs first.

NMC

From Page 1

as a hybrid format.

"For the classes that need to be taught in a face-to-face format, our facilities team continues to make essential upgrades to help keep our classrooms clean and COVID-19-free," said NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico.

He said the college will be talking about its plans with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and will also be seeking its formal endorsement of the plan.

The fall semester begins on Aug. 17, 2020.

Over the last few weeks, in preparation for the new semester, NMC has also made multiple facilities upgrades to its campuses as part of its efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Those upgrades include the installation of plexiglass sanitation barriers at each office, the retrofitting of service counters at the admissions, financial aid, and finance offices, and the installation of touchless faucets, touchless flush kits, and touchless soap and towel dispensers.

Floor markers and informational signage related to minimizing the spread of COVID-19 have also been installed in each campus.

In addition, classrooms at NMC have been reorganized to maximize social distancing. That means only nine students and an instructor will be allowed in a classroom at any given time.

In addition, the college will be reminding its students and employees to self-screen at their homes before they come to the campus, Eliptico said. "We will also be sending daily emails to the NMC community reminding everyone to stay home if they exhibit COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms," he said.

Eliptico also stressed that the college will roll back or scale back any reopening activities if certain factors in the community and the COVID-19 infection rate changes significantly.

All students, employees, and visitors must also wear a mask at all times while on campus.

Those who would like to learn more about the fall 2020 semester may visit the NMC website at www.marianas.edu or call 237-6770.

HOUSE

From Page 3

with that inquiry, and instead makes confusing arguments that, if accepted, would mislead the court. He said it is clear that the Settlement Fund does not fully grasp the issues at the heart of this case and at the heart of the motion for summary judgment before the court.

Lowrey said the Settlement Fund spends approximately a quarter of its brief arguing about a phantom amended complaint that was never filed and is not before the court. "As the adage goes, if intervenor does not have a dog in the fight, it should get out the ring," he said.

He said because PSS fails to provide any undisputed material facts establishing that the revenues in the complaint constitutes general revenue, the court should deny PSS' motion for summary judgment.

PSS and Ada, through Tiberius Mocanu, are suing Torres and Atalig to guarantee for PSS an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth's general revenue. PSS and Ada alleged that Torres and Atalig is in violation of the NMI Constitution because every allotment and disbursement made pursuant to Public Law 21-08, which established the Commonwealth government budget for fiscal year 2020, is unconstitutional. That law appropriated $37,718,904 to PSS, which is approximately 16% of the budget.

The Settlement Fund moved to intervene in the lawsuit. Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted the motion.

UOG injected $349M into Guam's economy in 2019

The University of Guam 2019 boosted the local economy in fiscal year by $349 million, created 4,191 full-time jobs, and generated $78.5 million in local taxes—all while operating with an annually decreasing appropriation from the government, which totaled $27.4 million in 2019.

These figures were detailed in a report by UOG economics professor Dr. Maria Claret M. Ruane, who was commissioned to prepare an overview of the university's expenditures and economic impacts in the past fiscal year. The report was finalized in July and released this week.

The report notes that the University of Guam had three major impacts to Guam's economy in fiscal year 2019:

1. UOG contributed $1 of every $17 in Guam's economy.
2. UOG created one in every 15 jobs in Guam.
3. UOG generated $1 of every $8 in GovGuam tax revenues.

"Given the isolation of this region, the University of Guam is an even more integral part of its community than most universities. It touches every industry of our islands and every aspect of life here," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise. "With this report, Dr. Ruane has pulled the data to quantify just how integral this university is—not only in the education of our professional workforce, but in its equally impactful roles as an employer and as a consumer of local products and services."

Ruane

Krise

Local spending

The report calculates that $33.83 million of UOG's $86 million expenditures for the year was spent with local businesses and agencies. Including payroll, this means that more than 86% of UOG's expenditures stayed in Guam. A total of $12.45 million were spent with off-island suppliers.

"This is important for performing impact on the local economy," the report states, "as amounts paid to off-island suppliers/vendors do not stay and multiply in the local economy and hence do not create local jobs, incomes and generate tax returns to the local government."

According to the report, the top five industries supported by university's expenditures are finance and insurance, utilities, "other services" not including public administration, construction, and retail trade.

"The diverse range of businesses on island provides the vast majority of what we need to operate, and we know that every dollar spent here fuels our local businesses contributes to local tax revenues, and helps employ the local population," said Randy Wiegand, UOG vice president of administration and finance and chief business officer.

Job creation

Ruane notes that UOG directly and indirectly created one in every 15 jobs in Guam. Put another way, UOG created 4,191 jobs, and of those jobs, 849 were direct employees under UOG, 206 were jobs able to be created through UOG's spending with on-island suppliers and vendors, and 3,136 were jobs able to be created as a result of spent incomes of direct employees, indirect employees, and UOG alumni.

The report notes the value of UOG alumni in the economy, as their incomes and purchasing power increase as a result of their degrees. Ruane's report cites data from a 2020 survey of UOG alumni that shows that those who earned bachelor's degrees have increased their annual earning potential in Guam by $15,000, many coming from part-time or no wages prior. And those with a master's degree have added $5,000 to their previous professional-level salaries.

"In this report, Dr. Ruane calculates that there are approximately 12,000 UOG degrees currently being utilized in Guam's workforce, and they are cumulatively earning their degree holders $156 million more than before. That is a substantial increase in residents' income overall that gets circulated back into our economy annually through increased spending and also through tax revenues," said Anita Borja Enriquez, UOG senior vice president and provost.

ON THE NET

www.uog.edu/economic-impact

Cash infusion

The report states that UOG generated $1 of every $8 of tax revenues collected by the government of Guam. More than $78 million in tax revenues were generated through income taxes, gross receipts taxes, and Medicare, which nearly triples UOG's $27.4 million government appropriation. The overall amount accounted for 12.6% of Guam's total tax revenues in fiscal 2019 and represents an 187% return on Guam taxpayers' money.

Investment

"An investment in UOG yields great returns for Guam," Krise said, specifying that UOG delivers an educated and higher earning professional workforce, job creation across all industries, and tax dollars infused into the government of Guam to fund public services.

"Being able to now quantify the amount of money UOG generates in the economy and the value returned to the community makes a strong case for the government of Guam to invest more deeply in the university," Krise said, "and we hope that businesses and other organizations seek to develop more partnerships with UOG."

Copies of the report are available at www.uog.edu/economic-impact. ***(PR)***

The Giving Table to serve San Antonio next

The good Samaritan group Giving Table will next move to San Antonio after giving away relief items in Dandan and San Vicente villages the past six Fridays.

This past Friday, the Giving Table gave out about 200 bags of relief goods. "We opened early due to the long lines of cars and gave out our last bag by 8:40am," said Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan).

The Giving Table is a network of friends who donate canned goods and nonperishable food items to anyone who needs them. Whatever is collected is given out at different places on austerity Fridays. There is no need to sign up for anything. Residents may be able to pull up and take what they need.

"There are a lot of people in the community who still don't have jobs and also do not qualify for federal assistance under the Nutrition Assistance Program and the CNMI Women, Infants and Children Program," said Propst.

"All donations have come from social networks of friends and family members. It has grown through word-of-mouth. My hope is to see a non-profit or group lead this or something similar for every village while we see hundreds of families struggling due to this pandemic."

Additionally, Propst said "I am motivated by the good we see in our community on a daily basis. Every good deed helps, and those who need the help the most can be helped if we all do a little." ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Military trainings set

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct live fire exercises in Warning Area 13 and Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 10-14 from 8am to 4:50pm. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of Farallon de Medinilla by 12 nautical miles for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Dandan-Malojloj and Radio Barrigada on Aug. 11-13, from 1pm to 11:55pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct live fire exercises in open ocean on Aug. 10-14 from 1pm to 11:55pm at the following coordinates: 13°26"N/145°08"E, 13°42"N/144°36"E.

Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor Aug. 11-14, from 1pm to 11:55pm. Simulated ammunition will be used for this training. Residents in surrounding areas are requested to remain clear of units in the area and should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire training at Naval Magazine on Aug. 11-14, from 9am to 4pm. Residents of surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Air Force will conduct live fire training in Northwest Field on Andersen Air Force Base on Aug. 14 from 8am to 3pm. Traffic will be closed for 15-30 minute intervals on Route 3A in the vicinity of the quarry area. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they hear or see increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in Warning Area 13, Warning Area 517, and Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 15-16, from noon to 11:55pm. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of Warning Area 517 and Farallon de Medinilla by 12 nautical miles for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor on Aug. 16 from 3:15pm to 10:30pm. The public is advised to be aware of the training and requested to remain clear of units in the area for the duration of this event.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB20-CHCC/DPH-IMMUNIZATION-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 25, 2020 TIME:10:00AM

"CHCC VACCINE STORAGE AND HANDLING EQUIPMENT"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-20-007

Archaeological Services forS19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a new sewerline in Afetna Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The existing Afetna sewer system was privately built and poorly installed due to excessive buildup of the Garment Industry. The project aims to replace the old system with approximately 5000 linear feet of new gravity sewer main with new sewer laterals and the installation of sewer manholes.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
   a. Background research design and work plan;
   b. Archival background information;
   c. Sample field investigation, and field survey;
   d. Past planning, research and studies;
   e. The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
   f. The degree of federal involvement;
   g. The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
   h. The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
   i. Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.

2. Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.

3. Deliverables
   a. 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
   b. Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-20-007: Archaeological Services for S-19-069 Construction of Afetna Sewer Collection Upgrade"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Loria brings 'A La Minute Buffet' concept to Saipan

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Buffet eating without the buffet. That, in short, is what "a la minute buffet" is, a new concept in eating that the Kensington Hotel in San Roque is introducing at its spacious Loria Restaurant that allows diners to eat as much as they want at a fixed cost while maintaining social distancing rules.

"We wanted to open the restaurant and at the same time become close to the people of Saipan by serving them unique flavors and good food. …I focused on how to make this safe for everyone…" said executive chef Lee Inok.

Inspired by Asian and Western flavors, the "a la minute" buffet costs just $38 for adults and $19 for children 4 to 11 years old. It is somewhat similar to buffet-style dining but, instead of getting food from different stations and getting food as often as you want, a la minute buffet means food is prepared and served to you at your table when you order it.

According to Inok, he used his imagination to serve the community the right way while navigating through the pandemic.

Inok, who has over 10 years' experience making Italian dishes and each of his chefs being experts in Japanese, Chinese and Korean dishes, thy combined all these expertise into 17 different kinds of dishes that are made available at Loria Restaurant for a culinary adventure for its diners.

Loria Restuarant is located at the first level of Kensington Hotel in San Roque. BEA CABRERA

Loria Restaurant chefs are proficient in all aspects of food preparation. BEA CABRERA

Angus Beef striploin steak, paired with oven-baked potatoes season with salt, pepper and olive oil. Simple ingredients but full in taste BEA CABRERA

Kensington Hotel executive chef Lee Inok picks the freshest ingredients right from the hotel's own garden. BEA CABRERA

"We make it a point that we use ingredients grown in our own garden and many of the side dishes are 100% made in-house," he added.

Guests can choose from 17 dishes and Loria Restaurant makes sure you start with freshly prepared bread, butter, garden salad, and soup of the day. The main entrées are served in small portions so that you can order any of the dishes as frequently as possible.

It was suggested that you order two dishes (same or different kinds) at a time, every time so they can prepare dishes hot and fresh while maximizing your food adventure.

Western entrées include melted mozzarella cheese, spaghetti, lasagna, chicken piccata, seared fish fillet, seared sous vide pork belly, and Angus Beef striploin steak. I started with the familiar ones on the list—lasagna and the Angus Beef striploin—and they didn't disappoint. Trying the rest on the list makes you think, "I've never had this flavor before." This was especially true with the spaghetti filled with shallot, mackerel ragout and dill crumble and the chicken piccata surrounded by mushroom risotto and tomato vinaigrette.

Korean entrées include "Kalbu Jim" soy sauce braised beef short rib, steamed rice and radish kimchi and "PaDak" crispy fried chicken that is known as a Korean pop culture dish. These two dishes transport you to Korea without leaving Saipan as it is prepared traditional Korean style.

Japanese entrées include Chef's Special hako sushi, nigiri sushi board that has three pieces of fish and seafood, ginger pickle, wasabi and soy sauce and California roll, crab meat filled with avocado, ahi tuna, cucumber, hinger pickle, wasabi and soy sauce.

Chinese entrées include stir fried seafood rice noodle, poached sliced beef in hot chili oil, and kung pao chicken that comes with cashew nuts and spicy kung pao sauce.

One cannot skip dessert when it includes house-made fruits sorbet and their delicious espresso tiramisu. Have the house-made fruits sorbet in the middle part of your lunch or dinner to cleanse your palate so you can dine on more dishes.

This 5'4" tall and 135-lb writer was able to take on full 11 dishes by herself and the other dishes by picking from her friends' plates. Overall, Loria Restaurant truly delivers, with a relaxing, unhurried ambiance, and good food for the community. Kensington Hotel Loria Restaurant's makes the "a la minute" style the new normal and gives a glimmer of hope for fine-dining amid the pandemic.

Loria International Restaurant is open four days a week. Thursday and Friday serves dinner only from 6pm to 2pm, Saturday open for lunch from 11:30am to 2pm, and dinner from 6pm to 9pm, and Sunday open for lunch from 11:30am to 2pm. For the whole month of August, Loria will offer special discounts and offer free "mimosa" coupons that people can get from Kensington Hotel's Facebook page.

For more information, call (670) 237-4584 or go to their website: kensington-saipan.com.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: August 11, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding a proposed rule for restrictions on US commercial fishing vessel activities in proximity to data buoys. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/NMFS-Rule-For-Restrictions-on-Fishing-near-Data-Buoys-8.6.2020.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on August 11, 2020 and ending on August 26, 2020. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

ADVERTISING Feature

Record of Decision for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Supplemental EIS/OEIS

Notice of Availability

The U.S. Navy, after carefully weighing the strategic, operational, and environmental consequences of the Proposed Action, announces the release of the Record of Decision to continue training and testing activities within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) Study Area.

Record of Decision

The Record of Decision documents the Navy's decision to continue training and testing activities within the Study Area as described in the MITT Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS under Alternative 2, the Preferred Alternative.

The Navy made its decision after considering the potential impacts training and testing activities may have on the human, natural, and cultural environments, as well as comments from elected officials, government agencies, organizations, and the public on the proposal and environmental analysis.

The Navy is committed to being a good steward of the environment and will implement mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential environmental impacts from training and testing.

For More Information

The Record of Decision, Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and supporting documents are available online at www.MITT-EIS.com.

The Record of Decision has been sent to mayors' offices in the villages of Hagåtña, Mangilao, and Dededo on Guam, and mayors' offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for public viewing.

Rota Mayor Atalig's 8 witnesses OK'd to testify remotely

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has allowed the eight witnesses of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig to testify via videoconference at his trial that will start today, Tuesday.

Manglona gave the go-ahead to the remote testimony of the witnesses last Friday. The eight are Elizabeth Atalig, Erma T. Calvo, Maryann Songsong, Michelle Cruz, Eusebio M. Manglona, Heather Zona, Zita Pangelinan, and Angel Sablan.

The trial of Efraim Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, will proceed today at 10am at the new U.S. Court-

» Trial to start today, Tuesday

house in Gualo Rai.

David G. Banes, counsel for Efraim Atalig, said the eight witnesses are believed to be currently outside the CNMI.

In the motion seeking permission for remote testimony, Banes said at least Elizabeth Atalig has successfully gone through VTC testing with the court's staff. Banes said their office staff is in the process of checking with the other witnesses regarding their ability to set up with the VTC application on their phones, and with the Guam District Court regarding conducting VTC at its facility for witnesses in Guam.

The lawyer said that current CNMI quarantine measure generally requires all incoming person to be quarantined for a certain period of time after entering the CNMI. "This means that, if the above individuals were to testify in person, they would have to fly to Saipan days before the date they are expected to testify to under the quarantine procedure," he said.

Banes said being aboard a flight is a potential risk for contracting COVID-19, and if those witnesses contract COVID-19 during their flights, the quarantine period may be even longer, Banes said.

The charges against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

NEWS BRIEFS

4.4-magnitude quake on Pagan

At 7:47pm on Aug. 9 2020, a report of a 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Pagan region of the Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Free PTAC webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars every Thursday in August. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Aug. 13 – SBA Profile & DSBS:** Your SBA Profile is a great marketing tool. The Guam PTAC will show you how to setup and update your profile. The DSBS is SBA›s database of small businesses. We will show you how to use it to help your company succeed in government contracting.

■ **Aug. 20 – Federal Contract Opportunities:** Beta.sam.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to setup an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ **Aug. 27 – How to Get WOSB Certified:** WOSB is now an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the new certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

Register on our website, http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php. ***(PR)***

Democratic Party's 9 female bets meet the press

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The nine female candidates of the NMI Democratic Party pose for a group photo after a press conference at the party's headquarters in Garapan Saturday morning. Sitting from left are Luella Marciano, Edith Deleon Guerrero, and Leila Staffler. Standing from left are Celina Babauta, Rep. Christina Sablan, Corina Lorraine Magofna, Rep. Sheila Babauta, Jenita Castro, and Denita Yangetmai.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The NMI Democratic Party presented Saturday its nine female candidates who are part of the party's 18-person roster for this Nov. 3 general elections.

Nine female candidates in a political party who are gunning for legislative seats is a historic first in the CNMI, according to NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix, who introduced the female candidates during a press conference at the party's headquarters in Garapan.

The party's female candidates are spearheaded by former Labor secretary Edith Eleonor Deleon Guerrero, who is eyeing a Saipan Senate post, and Reps. Christina Marie-Elise Sablan and Sheila Jack Babauta, who are seeking re-election for the House of Representatives Precincts 2 and 4, respectively.

The other female candidates for the House are Celina Roberto Babauta for Precinct 1, Luella Ichihara Marciano for Precinct 2, Corina Lorraine Magofna and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai for Precinct 3, Jenita Babauta Castro for Precinct 4, and Leila Fleming Clark Staffler for Precinct 5.

Edith Deleon Guerrero said she wants to restore integrity, responsibility and overall governance to improve people's lives. "I'm very excited to run with these beautiful, intelligent women here at the table," said Deleon Guerrero. She believes that "love for our people, love for our country, love for our mother Marianas" is central to their cause.

Celina Babauta, a former executive assistant to then-governor Juan N. Babauta, said she wants to bring back accountability to government. "I think women make better financial managers only because of their inherent nature to be more detailed," Babauta said, adding that society has created these psychological impediments and hurdles and that women have successfully overcome those hurdles. "Women should be allowed to succeed on their own merit," she said.

Babauta said that more women in government office means that people can expect a more organized, more efficient, and more bipartisan collaboration. "Only because we bring that woman factor in there," she said.

Rep. Christina Sablan said she wants to continue her work in the Legislature and is committed to open government, transparent government, and a government that responds to the needs of people. "I'd like to call the people in the Commonwealth to vote for positive change. Vote for candidates who are committed to restoring trust and integrity in our government," she said.

Sablan said all these women running for office is historic, unprecedented, and exciting.

Right now, Sablan is one of three women in the House of Representatives, which has always been dominated by men. Sablan said that what she has seen and has been shown in studies is that having more diversity in the Legislature and in any policy making body really makes a difference. More women often tend to translate into priority for education, for health care, for safety and for environmental protection.

"Women make up half of the population. We should be half of the decision making authority in this government and in this community," Sablan said.

Luella Ichihara Marciano, a retired teacher who is both a mother and grandmother, believes that it's high time that people deserve some common sense leadership. Marciano said she believes that, with all nine women candidates, they can bring clarity into the session at the Legislature.

"We are very protective and the way I see it, we are the lionesses of the Democratic Party," she said.

Corina Magofna, who is a budget officer at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and has over 15 years' experience in accounting and finance in the U.S. mainland and Saipan, is confident she can ensure checks and balances in government spending and accountability. Magofna is for open and honest government, open-door policy, and opportunities.

She said mothers are the managers of the household and teachers and they do it on a daily basis without getting any credit. "Because it's innate, it's natural for them to just take care of everything without complaining," she said.

Magofna said there is a need for more female viewpoints in the Legislature to bring fresh perspectives to the House.

Denita Yangetmai, who has been an educator for 22 years, also stressed the need to restore transparency, accountability, and checks and balances in government. She said it's not surprising that eight of them are running for the House as women are great home makers.

Jenita Castro, who has a background in labor and immigration, is currently working as an analyst at the Department of Commerce Worker's Compensation Commission. Castro said she running under the Democratic Party because she believes in transparency. "I want to push the value of integrity because I believe our community deserves more," Castro said.

Castro said women take their emotions and put it into positive action. "That's the strength of women. Our experiences, make us stronger to overcome anything that comes our way. So yeah, come election, vote for most amazing candidates," she said.

Rep. Sheila Babauta said she is passionate about community programs and community empowerment and working with the youth. "There's just so much work to do and I believe that there's value that we can add to our government," Babauta said, adding that each of them bring a different perspective and that's very important when it comes to representation.

When there is true representation in leadership positions, Babauta said they can craft legislation and policies that represent and work for all people. "I believe that having more women at the table will bring a more holistic approach as you can tell by all comments made here," she said.

Leila Staffler, a former principal at the Kagman High School, has been an educator for 18 years and believes that the next logical step for her is to run for office because, as she has always told her students, community service is the most important thing that people can participate in with their civic duties. Running for office is the ultimate form of community service, Staffler said.

She said she has chosen the Democratic Party because it stands for transparency and open government, which according to her is very important especially if people want change. "So that we can have and see the change that the CNMI desperately needs," she added.

Staffler said leadership foundation starts with the individual as it's their personality traits. "Whether it's their passion, it's their charisma. And when you really think about it, women are no different than men and they can be leaders who have that commitment to their community," she said.

Staffler said women are able to do multi-tasks and get things done. "And I definitely see a group of leaders [at this table] who have been doing that, whether it's in their homes or in their communities. And they will continue to do it regardless of what happens because that's who we are. That's what we do," she said.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The US needs an airplane mask mandate

In a country where COVID-19 remains out of control, it's wrong for anyone not to wear a mask on a commercial airplane. Increasing evidence shows that good cloth face coverings significantly lower the spread of the novel coronavirus at close quarters—and that not wearing them is risky, because this germ is so often breathed into the air by people who don't yet know they have it. One passenger on a flight from Singapore to Hangzhou, China, was infected by neighboring passengers when he merely let his mask slip below his nose while talking with his family.

It is one thing for people to take chances with their own health. It's quite another when their reckless behavior also puts others at risk. The evidence clearly shows that this is the case with masks during the pandemic. In fact, people who choose to risk their own health this way are exposing others to potentially worse danger. Smoking is banned almost everywhere—including on airplanes. During the pandemic, all air passengers should be required to wear masks, and face legal penalties if they don't.

Most Americans have come to understand the need to mask up. Seventy-two percent usually do. But 18% rarely or never do, and some of these objectors apparently want to remain maskless on airlines. This imperils the health of innocent strangers, including flight-crew members for whom the cabin is a workplace. Airplane ventilation systems remove almost all germs from the air, but it takes a few minutes for exhaled virus particles to reach the filters.

Major airlines already require passengers and crew members to wear masks, but their rules come with exceptions (one airline excuses children under age 8, for instance) and, most important, aren't always enforced. In a couple of instances airlines have refused entry to unmasked passengers or removed someone from a plane after boarding, but as things stand there's not much they can do to keep irresponsible passengers from removing their masks during flight.

An FAA rule could set penalties for noncompliance—just as some governments do. Many cities where the coronavirus is uncontained are levying $100 fines for going without a mask near other people in public places. Research has shown that such mandates work. Enforceable mandates increase the number of mask wearers and reduce new infections. If 95% of Americans were to wear masks, more than 30,000 lives could be saved over the next few months, according to the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. When masks do not prevent transmission altogether, they make infections less severe. And they do so

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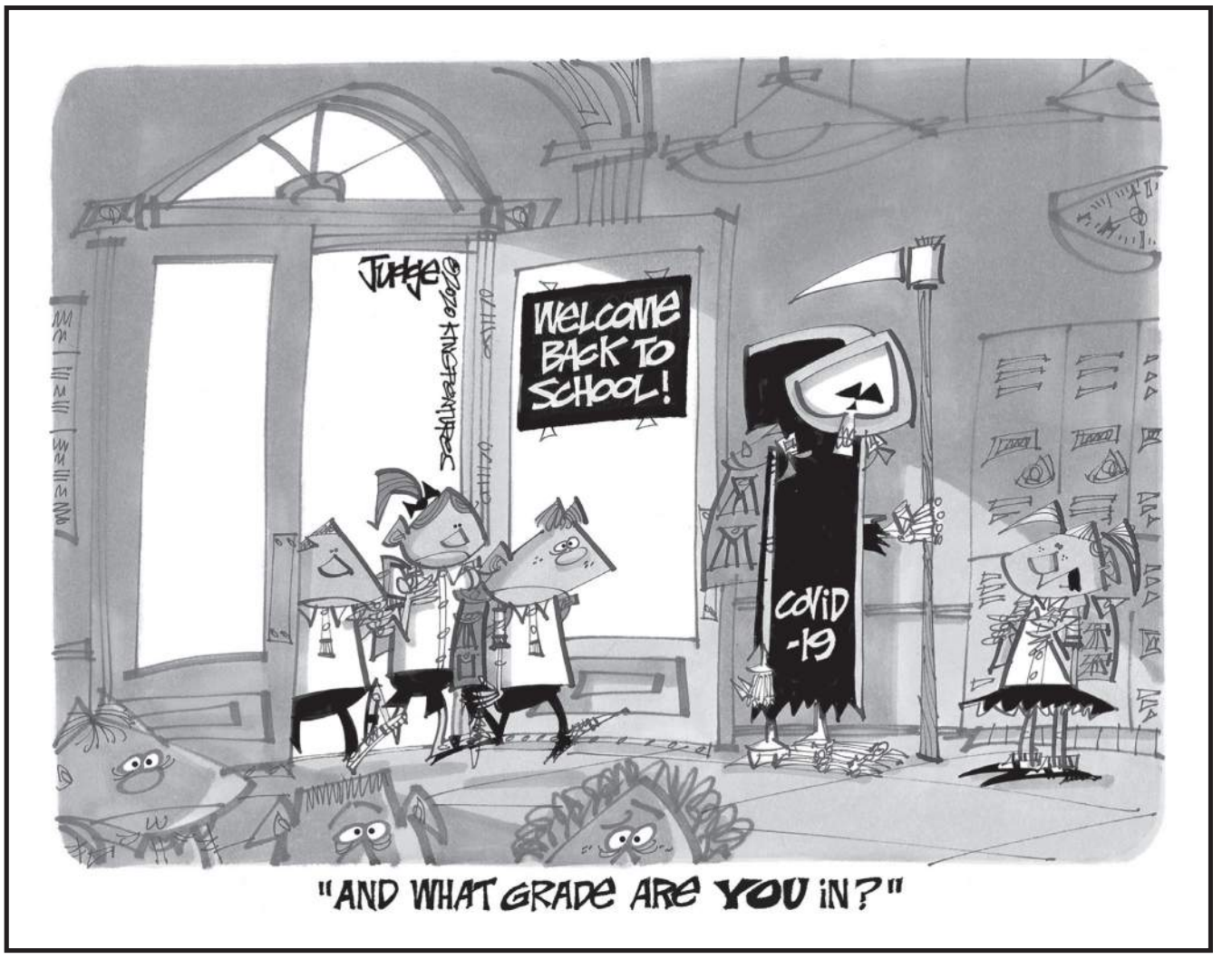


Legal entities: Understanding the four key ones

FINE PRINT
By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

Vehicles come in several types, from cars to SUVs to trucks. So when a person says that they own a vehicle, you need to ask follow-up questions to figure out exactly what they own. The same is true for businesses. Four of the main forms are sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, and limited liability companies.

Why does it matter? Because each type has advantages and disadvantages. Make the right choice and you'll minimize taxes, administrative hassles, and legal liability. Pick wrong and you'll pay unnecessary tax, jump through extra administrative hoops, and risk your home and assets.

Given those stakes, which legal entity should you pick? It depends. Let's discuss each in a little more detail to help you start the thinking process.

Option one is a sole proprietorship, which is a business owned and operated by a single person. In a sole proprietorship, the owner and the company are treated as being one and the same for tax and legal purposes.

The main benefit of a sole proprietorship is simplicity. Sole proprietorships are easy to set up—so easy, in fact, that many people own sole proprietorships without even knowing it. That's because it is the default form. Every business with a single owner is automatically a sole proprietorship unless they take steps to select a different structure. This is true even if the business has never obtained licenses and permits or been registered with the appropriate authorities.

Consider an example. Amy has a job but also moonlights as a photographer. But since photography gigs are sporadic, she's never created a business name, formed a company, or obtained a business license. So, what is her business? You guessed it—a sole proprietorship.

Unfortunately, that simplicity comes with a major downside—unlimited personal liability for anything bad that happens to the business. If the business cannot pay its debts, the owner is on the hook for them. If the business is sued, the owner is ultimately responsible. Because of this unlimited personal liability, if something bad enough happens, the owner could lose virtually all of their personal possessions—their car, their savings, and perhaps even their home.

Scary, right? Absolutely. But not always. It depends on the type of business you are running. To figure out whether you should worry, imagine your business. Now think about what would happen if everything went wrong with a client. Do they go to the hospital? Do they lose millions of dollars? Or do they just lose the money that they paid for your service? If a really bad day at the office includes clients getting sick, hurt, or losing heaps of cash, then unlimited liability can be a nightmare. But if you're the previously mentioned photographer who would merely need to refund some money, then unlimited liability is hardly cause for losing sleep.

Now let's take a peek at option two: a partnership. At its simplest, it looks almost the same as a sole proprietorship, except that instead of one owner there are two or more owners. In other words, like a sole proprietorship, if a business has two or more owners but has yet to register and get licenses and permits, then the business is a partnership. Also, like a sole proprietorship, the business and each owner are treated as one and the same for tax and legal-liability purposes. Thus, a big enough lawsuit would risk almost all of the owners' collective personal assets.

Option three is a corporation. In a corporation, shareholders own the business while officers and directors, respectively, operate and supervise the business.

Corporations enjoy two major strengths. First, unlike partnerships and sole proprietorships, corporations enjoy limited liability, meaning that an owner can only lose what they invested in the company, nothing more. So, their personal assets are not at risk. Second is easy fundraising. If your company needs to raise money, it's relatively simple to sell stock in the company. The same is not true for partnerships, sole proprietorships, or limited liability companies.

But corporations have some drawbacks. For one, a corporation is taxed twice—once on the income that the company generates and then again on the dividends that it transfers to the company's shareholders. For another, corporations tend to be more complicated to set up and maintain than a sole proprietorship or a part-

See LEGAL on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Are your seasonal allergies getting worse? Blame climate change

By NEELU TUMMALA
The Baltimore Sun

Dr. Neelu Tummala (Twitter: @NeeluTummala) is an ENT physician at The George Washington Medical Faculty Associates in Washington, D.C., and a climate advocate with a special interest in the intersection of climate and health.

Spending time outdoors is a useful way to fight cabin fever, something many of us are dealing with right now as our lives have changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Being outside reduces the transmission of the virus because of the constant movement of air, and it is often easier to socially distance than it is indoors. However, more time outdoors is not so pleasant for the nearly 19 million Americans who suffer from allergic rhinitis, commonly known as hay fever.

Every spring, summer and fall, I have patients in my clinic concerned about their pollen allergies. Many have noticed that their symptoms are starting earlier in the year and seemingly getting worse. There are multiple reasons for this constellation of symptoms—runny nose, itchy eyes and sneezing—to progress. One of those reasons is most certainly climate change, and we see this every season.

Anyone who suffers from seasonal allergies is affected by global warming, which extends the freeze-free season. This is the season exempt from frost, when plants are able to grow. What this means for patients is that allergy symptoms often start earlier in the year and last longer. Compared to 1970, the growing season in New York City has increased by 21 days; in Washington, D.C., by 17 days; and in Atlanta by 27 days, according to Climate Central, an independent organization of leading scientists and journalists that study and report on the impacts of climate change. For those dealing with daily allergy symptoms, each additional week affects their quality of life at home, and also their performance at work and school. For some parts of the U.S., the increase in the growing season is more than one month long, and the number of days is only projected to increase with time as global warming continues.

It is not uncommon for patients to tell me that their allergy symptoms have become increasingly severe over the years. One reason for this may be the rise in seasonal pollen counts, as demonstrated by ragweed, one of the most common allergens in the United States. Studies show that higher levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, which is produced when fossil fuels are burned for energy, leads to increased plant growth and pollen production. Between 1900 and 2000, the concentration of carbon dioxide rose from 280 to 370 parts per million, which correlates with a more than twofold increase in the production of ragweed pollen, with trends projected to increase fourfold in the next 40 years with continued unchecked carbon dioxide emissions. This escalation of seasonal pollen concentration does not only affect quality of life, it also has an economic impact, as those suffering from allergies spend more money on medicine to control and relieve their symptoms.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report found that the world has already warmed approximately 1 degree Celsius from preindustrial levels. Research shows that with rising temperatures, the spread of tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease, has changed, now appearing in places previously unaffected. Increasing global temperature also has the potential to lead to the development of pollen allergies. As the climate warms, plants are moving into new regions that were at one time not hospitable. This migration introduces new allergenic pollens to people previously not exposed, putting them at risk for developing allergy symptoms.

For those who are experiencing the familiar symptoms of sneezing, itchy eyes and stuffy nose, this is not just a "bad pollen" year. The world is warming and pollen is lasting longer and increasing in number around us. As with every unwelcome consequence of climate change, now is the time for action. We must aggressively act and support climate initiatives that address global warming and halt the undesired effects on pollen allergies.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for nothing!

Robert Arrington is doing a great job looking out for his business interests. While the CNMI's people are denied the $600 per week they've been waiting for, Gov. Torres paid at least $100,000 for Arrington to go on a two-week vacation. Arrington even got an official police escort, and carte blanche to break the law, from the governor himself! Not only were his expenses paid, but Mr. Arrington will make even more money from his YouTube ads and Patreon followers.

The CNMI just funded a for-profit business venture. Mr. Arrington's business venture, not ours. Sweet! For Mr. Arrington.

Just as a juicy cherry on top, our "leaders" in the House, egged on by Leepan Guerrero, spent government resources on Mr. Arrington, officially congratulating him for Deergate. High five!

And wow, Mr. Arrington was even so generous, after we funded his business operations, to donate a whole thousand dollars to a CNMI fishing organization! Maybe that will take some of the sting out of the damage he did introducing invasive species on Pagan, right under the governor's eye.

I want to congratulate Robert Arrington, because he's done very well for himself. How often is it that a government official takes you on a paid vacation using police boats, plus gives you a hundred thousand bucks, plus helps you get footage for your for-profit video business? He's certainly doing better than the unemployed people here in the CNMI.

If I call any state or local government in the U.S. mainland and ask to make a for-profit video about their sights, do you think they'd pay me and give me a free police escort? Of course not. They'd laugh at me. They'd charge me filming fees and taxes. Every city and state collects fees from for-profit filming operations.

Now, what did we, the people of the CNMI, get from Robert Arrington? We got a governor who went incommunicado two weeks in the midst of a pandemic and an unemployment emergency. We got a governor going fishing while the food stamps line blocked traffic and good Samaritans were handing out water to those waiting for hours at the Department of Labor. We got two DPS boats that were busy hosting a beer party in the Northern Islands, when they should've been ready for search-and-rescue on our islands. Or did DPS forget that they're supposed to be "*setbienten publiku*," not Gov. Torres's personal servants?

We got the administration's proposals to transfer the American Memorial Park, an actual legitimate CNMI tourist attraction, to the CNMI. We got the administration's refusal to renew the lease of Hyatt, an actual legitimate hotel that people who aren't gangsters or money launderers stay at. As a complete coincidence, we get the administration's proposal to amend the casino license deal to obligate the administration to give more land to IPI.

We got the Marianas Visitors Authority, which, instead of maintaining basic cleanliness and safety in tourist attractions, or instead of encouraging hotel businesses, is busy spending money on getting us "exposure." What benefit did we get from "exposure"? Robert Arrington already made videos about Rota in 2018. Did any tourists come to Rota thanks to all that "exposure"? None. Zero. Crickets. And that's Rota, where there's at least electricity, phone service, and hotels. (And a gaming commission, too.)

Forget for a second that people watch YouTube travel videos for entertainment, not for planning their own exotic travels. Forget for a second that most YouTube viewers are teenagers in India and Bangladesh, who have even less money than the CNMI's poor. Forget that having 2.3 million subscribers isn't much. DMFD is the 12,000th most popular channel on YouTube! Aren't you impressed? Forget that the "14 million views" statistic counts each video in the series as a separate view, so someone who watches all 10 videos would count as "10 views." Forget all that for a second.

Suppose that somewhere out there there's a crazy billionaire who happens on Robert Arrington's channel and wants to visit the Northern Islands and can actually afford to do so. It's farfetched, but it's possible. Stranger things have happened (for example, we re-elected Ralph Torres in 2018). If that traveling billionaire visited the Northern Islands, how would that traveling billionaire benefit the CNMI even one penny? Where are they going to spend money in the Northern Islands? Even if they wanted to help us out by "shopping local" in the Northern Islands, where exactly could they shop? What exactly would they do to benefit us, or where could they go that would benefit our economy?

The answer is either nowhere, because there's no way to spend money in the Northern Islands, or the answer is "just let IPI build a casino-resort there," which is pretty much the governor's answer to everything, and has been for many years.

Meanwhile, the tourist sites we have are going to ruin. There's a serious movement to get rid of (and give to IPI) American Memorial Park. The Hyatt is threatened with losing its lease. The Mariana Resort, once the pride of the region, stands abandoned, a warning sign to those who might want to do honest business in the CNMI instead of playing the governor's games.

Deer meat for dinner is delicious. But the governor just ate our lunch.

Ray S. Cabrera
As Lito, Saipan

LEGAL

From Page 8

nership. You will need to create corporate documents, appoint a board of directors, and follow various corporate formalities such as holding annual meetings and executing corporate resolutions.

Now for limited liability companies, the most popular type of legal entity. The reason for that is LLCs merge the best of sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations. They are simple to form and require fewer corporate formalities, all while enjoying limited liability (like corporations) and being taxed just once (like sole proprietorships and partnerships). Plus, they have other tax benefits for serial entrepreneurs who own several LLCs.

But, as noted earlier, LLCs are generally less effective than corporations if the company needs to raise money for reasons we'll get into during a future article.

To sum up: Chances are that an LLC is the right choice for a new business. But as with all things legal, the specifics of your situation matter a great deal. So, you may want to consult with your attorney and accountant before you decide what type of entity to use.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

US

From Page 8

without appreciably limiting people's intake of oxygen.

Air travel is still a fraction of what it was before the pandemic. For airlines, as for the U.S. at large, it will be impossible to return to normal unless COVID-19 is contained. Masks are one of the most effective strategies. Democrats in the House have introduced legislation that would authorize the Federal Aviation Administration to require masks on all U.S flights and impose criminal penalties for failure to comply. It should be passed without delay.

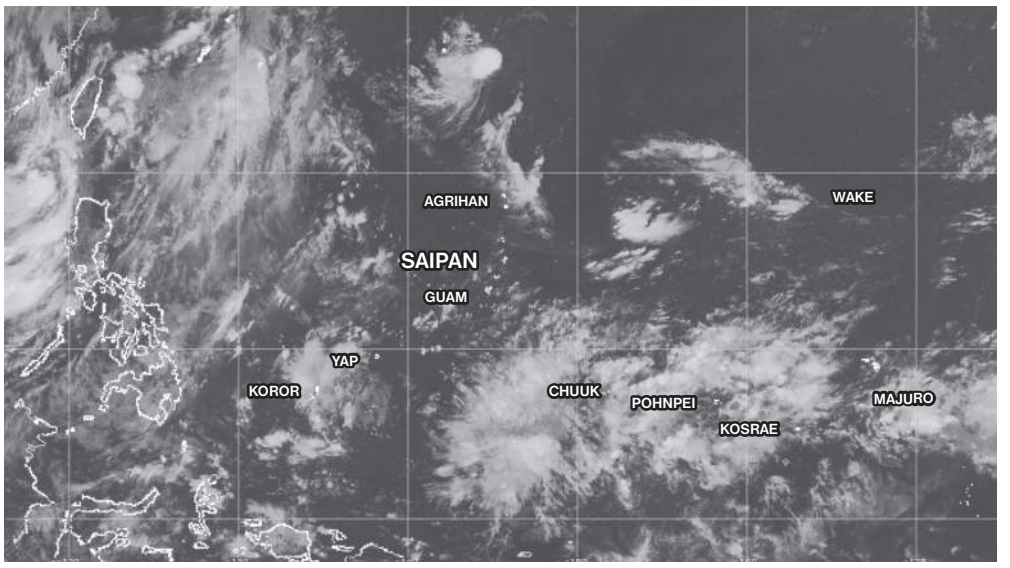
(c) 2020 *Bloomberg News*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.
88° 77°	90° 79°	89° 77°	89° 77°	89° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:56 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas remain within a gentle to moderate trade-wind regime. Satellite shows an upper-level low to the northeast. Meanwhile, radar indicates widely scattered showers moving through the Marianas waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 4 feet composed mainly of east to east-northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	89° / 81°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:52 AM	11:45 PM
Wednesday	-	12:41 PM	-
Thursday	12:26 AM	1:32 PM	-
Friday	1:10 AM	2:26 PM	-
Saturday	1:58 AM	3:21 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	60° / 51°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	94° / 76°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	93° / 69°
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 61°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 78°
Melbourne	Showers	60° / 51°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
New York	Mostly Sunny	89° / 75°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	94° / 81°
Paris	Showers	98° / 73°
Busan	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 71°
Salem	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 57°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	80° / 75°
Tokyo	Sunny	96° / 81°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	93° / 74°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:13 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.82
7:11 AM	LOW TIDE	0.72
1:12 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.52
6:49 PM	LOW TIDE	1.02

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

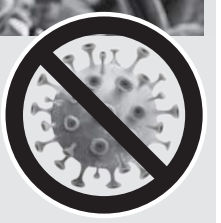
SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

STOP THE SPREAD



The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Business

Country House

Restaurant now open for lunch

For almost 30 years, Country House Restaurant stands as the only cowboy-themed restaurant that enchants both locals and tourists. BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Known for its Wild West and cowboy theme, Country House Restaurant in Garapan is now open for dine-in or take-out and ready to say "howdy!" to all after almost five months of hibernation due to COVID-19 concerns. Get ready to embrace your inner cowboy and cowgirl with their lunch specials, bentos, and all-time popular dishes like hamburger steak, barbeque spare ribs, and certified angus beef sirloin steak.

According to Country House Restaurant floor manager Lupe Taman, their lunch menus will surely satisfy everyone's taste buds. "For dine-in, aside from the popular dishes available in our menu, we have lunch specials that changes every day and the main dish always comes with soup or salad and rice for only $10.50. For take-out, we offer bento meals for only $8," she said.

"Our lunch dishes everyday will surely give the community many options when they go out to eat lunch...we know with the pandemic and unemployment, these are hard times so we try to bring menus that are delicious and affordable… dinner operations will start on Aug. 14," she added.

Country House Restaurant was established in 1992 and to date, is still the first and only cowboy-themed restaurant on Saipan. It is the go-to place for delicious and affordable steaks and more. The ambiance will immediately transport you to the West as you see cowboy hats hanging from the wall, leather saddles, a buffalo head, carriage wheels, and even life-size Indian carving, just to name a few.

Country House Restaurant administrative assistant Rosalinda Ada and floor manager Lupe Taman are joined by energetic and always ready to serve cowboy and cowgirl. BEA CABRERA

"We closed last March 24 and resumed operations last week but all that time, we would be in the office to work on employees' Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and our phones kept ringing for inquiries if we were open. When regulations became better and after getting all our permits to open, we finally did it last Aug. 1," Taman said.

"For people on the go, we have a curbside service where they can just call in their order and we will bring it to their car," she added.

Health and safety protocols are in place, according to administrative assistant Rosalinda Ada. "We abide by government regulations to keep employees and customers safe. We have separated tables, take customers' temperature as they come in, and ask for their names and contact numbers. We sanitize menus, tables and chairs when needed… On the first day we opened, we got a few tables filled and the experience gave us confidence that we can overcome the new challenges," she said.

"For almost 30 years, Country House Restaurant prides itself with good customer service with that cowboy and cowgirl style which is approachable and full of energy… we are open for family celebrations and company meetings as we sit six persons per table and if more, we will just put the tables and chairs in the same area and still observe social distancing…parking in front of the restaurant is available… Seeing old and new faces come back, gives us new energy and happiness… ," she added.

Country House Restaurant is open for lunch from Monday to Saturday, 11am-2pm. The special lunch for today is mix grill with teriyaki sauce. For more information, call (670) 233-1908.

Nation

UNDER TRUMP'S UNEMPLOYMENT PLAN

States on hook for billions

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—Whether President Donald Trump has the constitutional authority to extend federal unemployment benefits by executive order remains unclear. Equally up in the air is whether states, which are necessary partners in Trump's plan to bypass Congress, will sign on.

Trump announced an executive order Saturday that extends additional unemployment payments of $400 a week to help cushion the economic fallout of the pandemic. Congress had approved payments of $600 a week at the outset of the coronavirus outbreak, but those benefits expired Aug. 1 and Congress has been unable to agree on an extension. Many Republicans have expressed concern that a $600 weekly benefit, on top of existing state benefits, gives people an incentive to stay unemployed.

But under Trump's plan, the $400 a week requires a state to commit to providing $100.

Many states are already facing budget crunches caused by the pandemic. Asked at a news conference how many governors had signed on to participate, Trump answered: "If they don't, they don't. That's up to them."

Trump expressed a different view on Sunday night, following a day of state officials questioning how they could afford even $100 per person in additional weekly payments. He told reporters as he returned to Washington that states could make application to have the federal government provide all or part of the $400 payments. Decisions would be made state by state, he said.

Several state officials questioned how Trump's initial proposal would work and often expressed doubt that they could afford to participate at the level Trump initially set without using federal funds.

Aubrey Layne, secretary of finance for Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, said in a phone interview Sunday he believes it would be feasible for Virginia to participate in such a program if states are allowed to use money that's been allocated to them under the already passed CARES Act. He said his preliminary understanding is that states can do so, but he and others are waiting to see the rules published.

The better solution, Layne said, would be for Congress to pass legislation.

"It's ludicrous to me that Congress can't get together on this," he said. "I think it would have been better for the president to use his influence in those negotiations, rather than standing on the sideline and then riding in like a shining knight."

Details about the program were confused on Sunday — and that was even before Trump's declaration that states could ask the federal government to pay all or part of the $400 week payments.

On CNN's "State of the Nation" White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said conflicting things about whether the federal money was contingent on an additional contribution from the states. Initially Kudlow said that "for an extra $100, we will lever it up. We will pay three-quarters, and the states will pay 25 percent." In the same interview, though, he later said that "at a minimum, we will put in 300 bucks ... but I think all they (the states) have to do is put up an extra dollar, and we will be able to throw in the extra $100."

A clarifying statement from the White House said the "funds will be available for those who qualify by, among other things, receiving $100/week of existing assistance and certify that they have lost their jobs due to COVID-19."

Several advocacy groups that follow the issue, though, said it's clear the way the executive order is structured that the federal money will be contingent on states making a 25 percent contribution.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, called the plan "an impossibility."

DC shooting leaves 1 dead, some 20 injured

WASHINGTON (AP)—A dispute that erupted into gun fire during a large outdoor party in Washington, D.C., early Sunday left one person dead and some 20 others injured, including an off-duty officer "struggling for her life," according to police.

Christopher Brown, 17, died in the shooting that occurred after midnight in a southeast side neighborhood where people had gathered for music and food, Peter Newsham, the chief of the Metropolitan Police Department, told reporters.

"There was some kind of a dispute," Newsham said. "Multiple weapons were produced."

Police said at least three shooters may have been involved, though no arrests were immediately announced. Newsham said a motive for the shooting wasn't clear.

Fellow officers took the injured off-duty officer to a local hospital.

"She's struggling for her life right now," he said. He added that "the rest of the gunshot wounds, as far as we know, are non-life-threatening."

Nelson Bostic, a resident in the area, told WTOP he heard a burst of rapid gunfire, then saw "people laying on the ground" and "ducking under cars."

"It was terrible," he said.

Relatives of the teenager killed described him as someone who was full of energy and quick to smile. He also had a 1-year-old son.

"A lot of people know him as just a good person," his mother, Artecka Brown, told WUSA9. "That was an innocent life taken for no reason."

There may have been hundreds of attendees at the party despite city restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic on such large gatherings.

"We can't tolerate these types of gatherings in our city during COVID-19," Newsham said. "It's just too dangerous."

Mayor Muriel Bowser, speaking to reporters near the scene of the shooting, noted that public drinking and marijuana use outside were prohibited, as were gatherings of more than 50 people as a precaution against spreading the coronavirus.

"It's very important that as a community we have a zero-tolerance for this activity," she said. Bowser added that police will have to make some "difficult decisions" and "break up these events."

The gathering had been advertised on fliers as the "34th-n-EAT" cookout that would start late Saturday, The Washington Post reported. It would, the flier added, be a "drama free event."

Asia

3 days of heavy monsoon rains kill 58 in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Three days of heavy monsoon rains triggering flash floods killed at least 58 people in various parts of Pakistan, as troops with boats rushed Sunday to evacuate people from flood-affected districts in the country's southern Sindh and southwestern Baluchistan provinces.

Every year, many cities in Pakistan struggle to cope with the annual monsoon deluge, drawing criticism about poor planning. The monsoon season runs from July through September, during which swelling rivers cause damage to crops and infrastructure.

According to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, 19 people were killed in rain-related incidents in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, 12 in southern Sindh province, eight in Punjab province and 10 in the country's scenic northern Gligit Baltistan region in the past three days.

Rains also partially damaged about 100 homes and caused a breach in a flooded main canal, inundating villages in Sindh province. In a statement, the military said troops used boats to rescue stranded people and move them to safety. It said a medical camp was also established and food was being provided to the rescued people.

Heavy rains also lashed many districts in the southwestern Baluchistan province, killing eight people, damaging homes and inundating many villages in the district of Jhal Magsi, according to Saleem Zakir, spokesman for provincial disaster management authority. He said rescuers with the army's help were still trying to evacuate people from the district's flood-hit villages.

AP

A woman carries sack of wheat and household goods while she wades through a flooded area of Dadu, a district in Pakistan's southern Sindh province, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2020.

He said floods damaged a bridge and a gas pipeline and destroyed coastal roads on the Arabian Sea, severing links to the port of Gwadar, part of China's multi-billion dollar one-road project linking south and Central Asia to China.

According to local media reports, hundreds of people moved to nearby hills when the floodwaters entered their villages in remote areas of Baluchistan, and the military used helicopters and boats to move them to safer places. Authorities were dispatching tents and food for the flood-affected people.

Heavy rainfall began last week and continued Sunday, flooding streets even in the eastern city of Lahore. It especially disrupted normal life last week in Karachi, the provincial capital of Sindh province and Pakistan's commercial hub, where sewage flooded most of the streets, prompting Prime Minister Imran Khan to order the army to assist authorities in handling the situation.

According to the Meteorological Department, heavy rains are expected to continue next week.

In Pakistan and neighboring India, deadly floods occur regularly during the monsoon season.

Azar meets with Taiwan President Tsai on breakthrough visit

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday during the highest-level visit by an American Cabinet official since the break in formal diplomatic ties between Washington and Taipei in 1979.

Tsai said to reporters at the Presidential Office Building that said she looked for "even more breakthroughs and fruits of cooperation" in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic and other issues to "jointly contribute to the sustained peaceful development of the Indo-Pacific region."

Azar praised Taiwan's response to COVID-19 and said its success was a tribute to the "open, transparent, democratic nature of Taiwan's society and culture."

"It's a true honor to be here to convey a message of strong support and friendship from President Trump to Taiwan," Azar said.

Azar is due to hold consultations with health officials and deliver a speech later in the day.

Beijing has protested Azar's visit as a betrayal of U.S. commitments not to have official contact with the island that China claims as its own territory and threatens to use force to bring under its control.

Azar's visit was facilitated by the 2018 passage of the Taiwan Travel Act, which encouraged Washington to send higher-level officials to Taiwan after decades during which such contacts were rare.

China cut contacts with Tsai over her refusal to recognize China's claim to the island and has brought increasing diplomatic, economic and military pressure against her, including by poaching away several of its remaining diplomatic allies and excluding it from international gatherings including the World Health Assembly.

That, in turn, has increased already considerable bipartisan sympathy for Taipei in Washington and prompted new measures to strengthen governmental and military ties.

Closer relations come as Washington is enmeshed in a series of disputes with Beijing over trade, technology, the South China Sea and Beijing's crackdown on opposition voices in Hong Kong.

Taiwan, an island of 23 million people, moved swiftly and aggressively to contain COVID-19 and has recorded just 277 cases and seven deaths from the illness.

World

World donors demand change before money to rebuild Beirut

BEIRUT (AP)—World leaders and international organizations pledged nearly $300 million in emergency humanitarian aid to Beirut in the wake of the devastating explosion, but warned on Sunday that no money for rebuilding the capital will be made available until Lebanese authorities commit themselves to the political and economic reforms demanded by the people.

Over 30 participants to the international conference offered help for a "credible and independent" investigation into the Aug. 4 Beirut explosion, another key demand of the Lebanese crowds who took to the streets Saturday and Sunday.

In Beirut, two Lebanese Cabinet ministers, including a top aid to the premier, resigned amid signals that the embattled government may be unraveling in the aftermath of the devastating blast that ripped through the capital. The blast killed 160 and wounded 6,000, raising public anger to new levels.

The resignation of Information Minister Manal Abdel-Samad, in which she cited failure to meet the people's aspirations and last week's blast, was followed by a swirl of reports that other ministers were also resigning.

Late Sunday, Environment Minister Demanios Kattar resigned, calling the ruling system "flaccid and sterile."

He stepped down despite closed-door meetings into the evening and a flurry of phone calls between Prime Minister Hassan Diab and several ministers following Abdel-Samad's announcement. The political haggling had appeared to put off more resignations, and a Cabinet meeting is planned Monday.

If seven of the 20 ministers resign, the Cabinet would effectively have to step down and remain in place as a caretaker government.

Maha Yahya, the director of the Beirut-based Carnegie Middle East Center, said the discussions clearly point to backroom deals that seek to put together a new government that's acceptable to domestic and international powers, as well as the angered public.

The current government "really has been a lame duck," she said, unable to undertake any reform or show independence in a highly divisive political atmosphere. "Even the ministers are deserting the sinking ship."

Meanwhile, four more lawmakers announced Sunday they were resigning from the 128-seat parliament, joining four others who declared it earlier. Parliament is also due to convene later this week.

As the political negotiations took place, protesters converged again on the parliament area Sunday afternoon, setting off another night of violent demonstrations. Hundreds of protesters clashed with security forces, attempting to breach the heavily-guarded parliament. Security forces responded with tear gas and chased the protesters in the streets of downtown, in a smaller repeat of scenes from the night before.

6 Gulf Arab countries back extending UN arms embargo on Iran

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—A six-nation bloc of Gulf Arab nations torn apart by internal strife endorsed an extension of a United Nations arms embargo on Iran, just two months before it is set to expire.

The Gulf Cooperation Council on Sunday sent a letter to the U.N. Security Council backing an extension of an arms embargo that's kept Iran from purchasing foreign-made weapons like fighter jets, tanks and warships.

The GCC—comprised of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates—alleged Iran had "not ceased or desisted from armed interventions in neighboring countries, directly and through organizations and movements armed and trained by Iran."

A Saudi-led coalition continues to battle Yemen's Houthi rebels, whom the U.N., the U.S. and armament experts have accused of receiving arms from Iran. Tehran denies arming the Houthis, even as Iranian armaments and components have repeatedly turned up in Yemen.

The letter also said Iran arms Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon and Syria and allegedly provides weapons to Shiite militias in Iraq and "terrorist groups" in Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

"U.N. restrictions establish a consensus understanding of the threat to peace and stability Iranian proliferation represents," the GCC said in the letter signed by General-Secretary Nayef al-Hajraf on behalf of the bloc.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi condemned the GCC letter and called it an "irresponsible" statement that serves U.S. interests, Iranian state TV reported.

Mousavi also criticized the Gulf Arab countries for being "among the largest arms buyers in the region and the world," even amid the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The U.N. banned Iran from buying major foreign weapon systems in 2010 amid tensions over its nuclear program. That blocked Iran from replacing its aging equipment, much of which had been purchased by the shah before the 1979 Islamic Revolution. An earlier embargo targeted Iranian arms exports.

Iran's 2015 nuclear deal saw the U.N. agree to sunset the arms embargo this October. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the deal in 2018, part of a maximum pressure campaign that's hurt Iran's already-ailing economy and led to a series of escalating incidents in the Mideast.

The GCC letter also mentioned Iran's shootdown of a Ukrainian passenger plane in January and its navy accidentally killing 19 sailors in a missile strike during an exercise. Iran also is suspected of launching a September attack on the heart of Saudi Arabia's oil industry, though Tehran denies that.

That the GCC offered a unified statement on Iran comes as it remains torn by the ongoing Qatar crisis, which saw Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Emirates cut diplomatic ties and launch a boycott of the nation beginning in 2017. Kuwait has sought to mediate the crisis, though its 91-year-old emir now is hospitalized in the U.S. suffering from an undisclosed ailment.

A Memorial Mass

†PETER MICHAEL PANGELINAN TENORIO

(MIKE TENO)

NOVEMBER 5, 1960 – JUNE 27, 2020

Mike was peacefully laid to rest in San Diego, California on July 6, 2020. To honor Mike's memory with those who loved him here at home, we will celebrate a memorial mass on August 14, 2020, 10:00am at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Saipan, CNMI.

9:00 a.m.	Family and friends will be welcomed and received
9:30 a.m.	Messages from a few of †Mike's family and friends
9:50 a.m.	Acknowledgment
10:00 a.m.	Memorial Mass

You left us beautiful memories,
your love is still our guide,
tho' we cannot see you,
you're always at our side."

Overdrive

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

AUTO REVIEW:

2021 Toyota Venza hybrid SUV combines Lexus style with Toyota value

The 2021 Toyota Venza. MARK PHELAN/ DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS

The 2021 Venza hybrid SUV delivers Lexus style at Toyota prices. That's no coincidence. Toyota only uses the name "Venza" in North America, where it was used on another attractive SUV from 2008-15.

In the rest of the world, the new Venza is called the Harrier, the vehicle that had been the basis of Lexus's RX SUV.

The RX is Lexus's best-selling model in the US by a wide margin. Adding a third row of seats to appeal to American families a couple of years ago, it's evolved away from the Harrier's size. That made a good-looking, feature-packed new SUV available and the Toyota brand snatched it to provide slightly larger complement to its top seller, the RAV4.

The Venza will compete primarily with larger five-passenger SUVs like the Chevrolet Blazer, Ford Edge, Honda Pilot, Nissan Murano and VW Atlas Cross Sport.

The Venza goes on sale this summer.

High-tone interior look and feel

The Venza is smaller than those competitors, 186.6 inches long on a 105.9-in. wheelbase it shares with the RAV4. It's got less passenger space than the RAV4 due to sleek styling that rounds off a few of its edges. Venza passenger and cargo volume are also smaller than competitors from other brands.

Despite that, the interior is comfortable. The head and leg room are plentiful in front and rear seats, with a center console that provides good storage space, despite two inexplicable little lids on shallow depressions marked 'no cups' in its top shelf.

The dash and doors are covers in soft materials that would do a Lexus proud, as would tasteful chrome and ash-colored faux-wood trim.

Comfortable seats were upholstered with handsome SofTex material and embroidery. The front seats were ventilated and cooled.

Like a zombie, capacitive controls keep coming back

The controls are less satisfying. Toyota opted for flat-panel capacitive touch points rather that dials, buttons or switches for volume, tuning and a few other frequently used functions. I drove a top of the line Venza Limited with a big 12.3-inch touch screen that displayed information clearly, but there's no substitute for controls you can find and use by feel for some functions. That lesson's been pounded home to brands from Honda to Cadillac, but like all fields, the auto industry has pockets of slow learners.

My Venza had two option packages, which included:

- 10-in. head up display and rain-sensing wipers ($725)
- A fixed panoramic 'Star Gaze' sunroof that turns from opaque to clear at the touch of a switch. It struck me as a bit of a gimmick, more expensive ($1,400) than a conventional sun roof, while still requiring a fabric shade to prevent overheating and offering a somewhat milky view of the sky.

How much?

The Venza offers just one drivetrain: It's an all-wheel drive hybrid with a 2.5L gasoline engine and small motor up front and an electrically powered rear axle.

The Venza shares its e-axle layout with the RAV4 hybrid. Using a separate electric motor on an axle that's not connected to the front drivetrain is an increasingly popular way to offer AWD with less weight, fewer parts and complexity than a driveshaft connected to a conventional axle in the rear end.

Total system power is 219 horsepower.

Venza prices start at $32,470.

Standard features include:

- Wireless charging
- LED head, tail and running lights
- Power tailgate
- 18-in. wheels

Standard safety features include:

- Blind spot and cross traffic alerts
- Front collision alert and emergency braking
- Pedestrian detection
- Lane departure alert and assist
- Adaptive cruise control
- Automatic high beams
- Road sign assist

I tested a top of the line Limited model. The Limited starts at $39,800 and options raised the price of my vehicle to $41,925. That compares favorably with similarly equipped versions of the larger Atlas Cross Sport, Blazer, Edge, Murano and Passport.

Standard features on the Venza Limited include:

- 19-in. wheels
- Dual-zone climate control
- 12.3-in touchscreen
- One USB data port and three charging ports
- Nine-speaker JBL audio
- Navigation Bird's eye camera for parking
- SofTex trimmed perforated seats
- Digital rearview mirror
- Capacitive controls Projector LED head lights and dual-LED DRLs
- Heated and ventilated front seats
- Heated steering wheel
- Head up display
- Front and rear automated parking with braking

Driving impressions

The Venza's hybrid system functions smoothly, delivering good fuel economy and easy operation. Cruising on all-electric power at neighborhood speeds is easy, though the whine of electric motors is fairly noticeable with no music playing.

There's plenty of power for highway cruising, though the 2.5L Atkinson cycle gasoline engine creates noticeable vibration under load, a feature common to many hybrids.

The continuously variable automatic transmission is effective and the blending of mechanical braking and regeneration to charge the lithium-in battery under the rear seat feels perfectly natural, just like conventional all-mechanical brakes.

Official EPA fuel economy ratings aren't available yet, but Toyota projects 40 mpg in the city, 37 on the highway and 39 combined. That seems feasible based on my experience.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Toyota Venza at a glance

- **Base price**: $30,445
- **As tested**: $41,925 (excluding destination charges)
- **All-wheel drive five passenger SUV.**
- **Engine**: 2.5L gasoline engine and two electric motors
- **Total power**: 219 hp
- **Transmission**: continuously variable automatic
- **Estimated EPA fuel economy rating**: 40 mpg city/37 highway/39 combined
- **Wheelbase**: 105.9 inches
- **Length**: 186.6
- **Width**: 73.0
- **Height**: 65.9
- **Curb weight**: 3,913 lbs.
- **Assembled in Takaoka, Japan**

Storing a car? Don't disconnect battery

Q: What is the proper method for storing a newer car for the winter, about six months? I have a 2019 Lincoln Nautilus. I've heard disconnecting the battery isn't necessarily a good technique with newer cars because of the numerous car computers. Is it better to keep them on a trickle charger?

A: You're right about disconnecting the battery. On many vehicles, doing so will erase the entertainment system memory (as an antitheft feature), requiring it be reset. You may need a special code to do the reset. Without removing any battery cables, attach smart charger (often called a maintenance charger) without overcharging. Before putting a cover over your car, change the oil, fill the gas tank (add some fuel stabilizer) and crack the windows a tiny bit.

Q: I had an I-PASS on my windshield that never seemed to stay on, so I removed it. However, the glue from the I-PASS is stuck on my windshield. I have tried Goo Gone and it does not seem to be removing the glue. Any other suggestions?

A: Those toll transponders' Velcro fasteners are designed to stay put. I suggest a razor blade scraper with a fresh blade to remove the adhesive. If you chill it, all the better. Try holding an ice cube on the outside of the windshield for a few moments. If the glue begins to smear upon scraping, apply more chill. Afterwards, chill out with a cold one.

Q: I was unpacking some things that I had ordered online, and the newspaper page containing your column of May 11 was wrapped around something I had ordered. As an avid car person all my life, your column caught my eye, and I read it.

I also own a Mercedes 380 S and was particularly interested in this question the gentleman asked you about brake dust. I had the same problem and it was driving me crazy until I found the ultimate solution and have never looked back! Eckler's Automotive Parts (ecklers.com) has a wonderful Mercedes catalogue where you can even buy items for your vintage Mercedes. Eckler's sells plastic shields that fit behind the wheels and disperse the brake dust before it even touches the wheels.

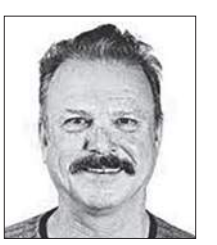
A: Dust shields are an excellent idea. Several companies make them and most are also available at traditional auto parts stores. Eckler's specializes in restoration and performance parts.

A: We recently took our Audi A4 to the service department of a national used car auto retailer to have 55,000-mile service done. They returned it to us running. When we got home and switched the ignition off, a message came up stating "Please drain oil." I called the dealer and they told me not to worry about it. I told them I wanted it fixed. My rudimentary knowledge from 1970s high school auto mechanics made me aware of the dangers of a crankshaft dipping down into an overfilled oil pan. I assume this still holds true to this day. Please warn your readers they should always check their oil level after an oil change.

A: When the crankshaft dips into the oil, it whips it into a froth. Frothy oil can't be pumped and will not lubricate the engine. Damage is likely. If you are a fan on froth, order a cappuccino at Starbucks. If your crankcase is over filled, have the excess drained.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

Simon Cowell has surgery for broken back after bike accident

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Simon Cowell underwent surgery to repair a broken back, the result of an electric bicycle accident, and was recovering at a hospital, a spokesperson said Sunday.

"Simon has broken his back in a number of places" after falling from the new bike he'd been testing in the courtyard of his Malibu home, the representative said. Family members were present.

The entertainment mogul was "doing fine" and remained under observation after the operation at an unidentified hospital, the spokesperson said.

Cowell's wife, Lauren, accompanied him to the hospital and has been able to see him briefly. Cowell's overnight, six-hour surgery Saturday included placement of a metal rod.

Cowell

The couple's son and Lauren Cowell's child by a previous marriage were with Cowell when the accident happened.

Cowell's injury will force him to miss the beginning of this season's live shows on NBC's "America's Got Talent." The live shows will begin Tuesday and Wednesday without him, the network said.

He created the talent show and serves as a judge. The show's other judges are Heidi Klum, Howie Mandel and Sofia Vergara, with Terry Crews as host.

Cowell also has been a judge on "Britain's Got Talent," "The X Factor" and "American Idol."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

MTV VMAS scraps indoor performances, moves to outdoor sets

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV says it is ditching plans for indoor performances for its upcoming Video Music Awards, opting for outdoor shows spread throughout New York City instead. Organizers had planned for some performances inside Brooklyn's Barclays Center for the Aug. 30 show, but say they will follow the guidance of state and local officials to move them outside. The shift announced Friday is in response to the coronavirus pandemic. New York City was one of the first U.S. cities hit hard by the virus, but cases have leveled off and some restrictions are being loosened.Gov. Andrew Cuomo's announcement in June that the VMAs would be held at Barclays surprised many and was a signal of the city's turnaround in its fight against the virus. A statement by MTV and the Barclays Center promised the show would "pay homage to the incredible resiliency of New York with several outdoor performances around the City with limited or no audience." The show plans to return to Barclays for its 2021 edition.

Comedian Andy Dick sues man who punched him in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Comedian Andy Dick has filed a lawsuit in New Orleans against the man who punched him last year outside a French Quarter nightclub. Documents in the July 30 lawsuit were made public Thursday, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported. Dick, 54, said the punch by David Hale, 47, caused "serious, permanent and disabling injuries." He seeks compensation for medical expenses and lost wages, among other damages. "The entire suit is ridiculous," Hale's attorney, Michael Kennedy, said in an emailed statement Friday to The Associated Press. Kennedy, who has denied wrongdoing by Hale, said it was "appalling" that Dick would seek lost wages during a pandemic. Hale has maintained that Dick provoked him into hitting him by grabbing Hale's genitals and winking at him outside the club where Dick had performed. Dick has denied he touched Hale.

'Don't shut up!' Film spotlights Filipino journalist

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Maria Ressa says she didn't take Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte seriously when he declared four years ago that "corrupt" journalists weren't "exempted from assassination."

"In 2016, it was really, really laughable. And I thought, 'Oh, doesn't matter.' I laughed," said the country's most well-known journalist and leader of the independent Rappler news organization.

Grim reality set in as Ressa was arrested and thrown in jail, targeted in a series of criminal cases and convicted this summer on libel and tax evasion charges seen widely as attacks on press freedom. She now faces six years in prison.

AP

Maria Ressa, the award-winning head of a Philippine online news site Rappler, talks to the media after posting bail at a Regional Trial Court following an overnight arrest by National Bureau of Investigation agents on a libel case in Manila, Philippines on Feb. 14, 2019.

"A Thousand Cuts," a new documentary from Filipino-American filmmaker Ramona S. Diaz, tracks Ressa's dual life in recent years. She's seen smiling while accepting international media awards and praise from the likes of George Clooney, then grimly facing down online harassment, legal action and real world threats for Rappler's reporting on extradjudicial killings in Duterte's drug war.

The film argues that Americans should learn from the recent history of the Philippines, where social media has helped to divide the country and critical press outlets are regularly lambasted by the president. ABS-CBN, the country's largest TV network, was shut down by the government's telecommunications regulator in May.

Promoting the film in a Zoom interview from her home in Manila, Ressa shook her fists and laughed with dark humor—"Urgh! Angry!"—about what she called her "war of attrition" with the government. She's pleaded not guilty and is appealing her convictions.

"You don't know how powerful government is until you come under attack the way we have. When all the different parts of government work against you—it's kind of shocking," she said. "I can't wait to really write this—because I can't write at all right now, because then I would be in contempt of court."

Facebook has become the center of the internet for most Filipinos, and Rappler utilized it to grow rapidly as a startup news site. But the film shows how Duterte's populist campaign harnessed the platform to spread its message and target Ressa and other journalists.

Duterte supporters livestreamed protests at the Rappler office, and death threats flooded the comments alongside red heart emojis. Disinformation on the social media platform exacerbated the problem, she said.

"Social media, the tech platforms have created a system where lies laced with anger and hate spread faster than facts. And it has placed people like me at risk," Ressa said.

Ressa began wearing a bulletproof vest because of threats. She is seen in the film repeatedly pleading with Facebook representatives to delete violent posts or cut live streams. Last month, she grew frustrated watching Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and other tech leaders speak before the U.S. Congress.

Law enforcement officer feels judged by some in the family

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been together since we were 16, married for 25 years. Her parents took me in as a teenager, and her family has been my family ever since.

I'm the kind of person who loves everyone equally. I will bend over backward for someone in need and have done so for my wife's family many times.

Over the last few years, my wife's brother, nephew and niece have turned against me. They've called me controlling, hateful and racist. I am none of those. I am, though, a law enforcement officer and a Christian. My wife's brother is a convicted felon, and her niece went to one of those anti-everything colleges.

This has created a rift in the family and caused my wife and me to feel hated and isolated, which has ruined family gatherings and holidays. How can I fix this? What can I do to help them see me for who I am, instead of their biases based on my religion and occupation?

REALLY NOT LIKE THAT

DEAR REALLY NOT: There is nothing you can or should do to erase their biases. From your description, you have done enough good deeds for your in-laws to have shown them the kind of person you are.

You have mentioned only your brother-in-law the felon and his radicalized daughter. Where does the rest of the family stand on this? If they are joining in and allowing you to be isolated, quit trying to impress them. Instead, spend your time with people who like, understand and accept you for who you are and don't look back. Your brother-in-law and his kids will come looking for you as soon as they need something else from you, but when they do, I sincerely hope you'll resist the temptation to buy your way back in.

DEAR ABBY: I work closely with a woman who is 21 years younger than I. We are both single. Because of our age difference and professional relationship I am not looking to date her. However, over the last couple years I have developed romantic feelings for her.

I converse with her by asking questions about movies she likes, books she reads or what she did the previous weekend. Her answers are usually short and without elaboration. I even share with her things that I do in my life, but never once in the five years I have known her, has she ever initiated a conversation with me or asked me about my life. She acts differently with other male co-workers. She does things for them, smiles at them and seems genuinely interested in their conversation. It really stings every time I see her socialize with others and ignore me. What can I do to get out of this psychological rut I am in?

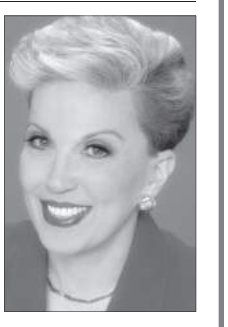
STUCK IN ILLINOIS

DEAR STUCK: Your co-worker may have picked up on the fact that you are attracted to her and it is not reciprocated, which is why she keeps your relationship strictly formal and work-related. I am sure this stings, and for that you have my sympathy.

You now must do what everyone else in your situation does, which is concentrate on meeting women who are available. You are not going to find what you're looking for in your workplace. What's going on is not healthy for you or conducive to a productive work environment. If you can't quell that crush on her, you may have to change jobs so you won't have to work so closely with her—or at all.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

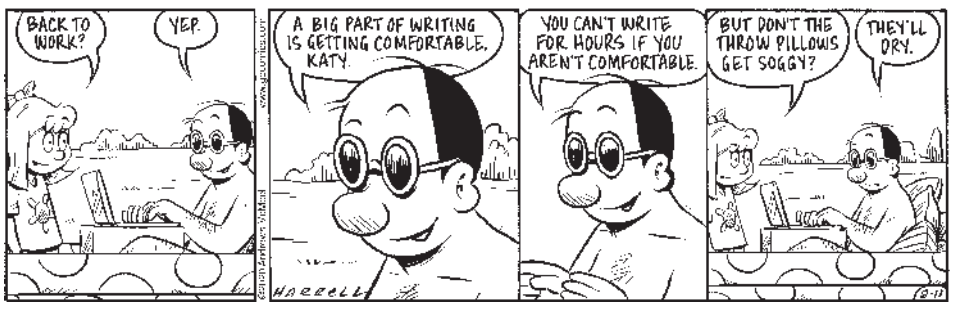
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

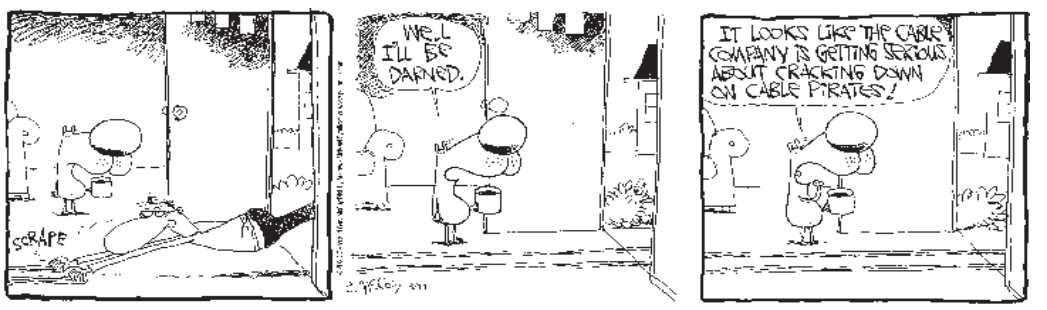
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BACK TO WORK?
YEP.
A BIG PART OF WRITING IS GETTING COMFORTABLE, KATY.
YOU CAN'T WRITE FOR HOURS IF YOU AREN'T COMFORTABLE.
BUT DON'T THE THROW PILLOWS GET SOGGY?
THEY'LL DRY.
HARRELL
8-11

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Anti-fur org.
5 Nonstick spray
8 Stitches
12 K thru 12
13 Parisian pal
14 Arduous journey
15 Cupid's specialty
16 College group for women
18 Iced desserts
20 Tightly packed
21 Historic period
22 Misery
23 Road curves
26 Untangle
30 Ref
31 Fine, at NASA
32 ISP choice
33 Wizard's study
36 Octet count
38 U.K. fliers
39 Zero-star review
40 Early Mexican
43 Mira of "Mighty Aphrodite"
47 Grouch
49 Store sign
50 Item on stage
51 Blackbird
52 Marx or Malden
53 Utters
54 Earl Grey, for one
55 Whirlpool

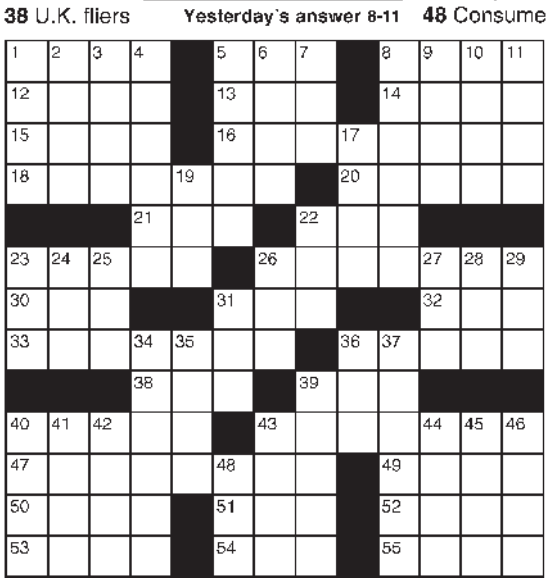
DOWN

1 Carrots' mates
2 Ticklish Muppet
3 Thunder god
4 Inflatable mattress
5 Trattoria plateful
6 Singer Tori
7 Soviet space station
8 Avenue
9 Ireland
10 Saturates
11 Terrier type
17 Scent
19 Hosp. sections
22 Stir-fry pan
23 Train alternative
24 Comic Philips
25 "Morning Edition" airer
26 Tofu source
27 Texter's "Wow!"
28 Show to a seat, slangily
29 Potent stick
31 "Bow-wow!"
34 Crawls
35 Apiece
36 Hearing thing
37 Bring about
39 Speakers' stands
40 Nile vipers
41 Author — Neale Hurston
42 "Iliad" setting
43 Logical
44 Apple tablet
45 Dweeb
46 Unique
48 Consume

Solution time: 22 mins.

D	E	F	T	■	R	U	M	■	F	L	A	W
E	T	A	S	■	I	■	A	■	E	A	C	H
M	O	N	K	■	P	E	C	O	R	I	N	O
I	N	S	T	E	P	■	E	A	G	L	E	S
■	■	■	S	K	E	W	■	■	I	A	■	■
F	E	C	K	E	D	A	T	■	E	A	S	E
C	A	L	■	S	J	D	A	N	■	L	E	A
S	U	E	T	■	P	E	C	U	L	I	A	R
■	■	H	O	Y	■	S	I	L	O	■	■	■
C	H	I	M	E	S	■	L	O	Y	D	S	■
H	E	C	A	N	P	I	E	■	M	O	A	I
A	M	A	I	■	A	C	S	■	E	H	L	E
S	O	L	O	■	I	I	S	■	D	E	E	M

Yesterday's answer 8-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alyson Stoner, 27; Chris Hemsworth, 37; Ben Gibbard, 44; Hulk Hogan, 67.

Happy Birthday: Focus on what you can do this year. Put your time, thoughts and energy into learning, preparing and modifying whatever needs an update to fit into the life you are trying to create for yourself. Changes shouldn't be drastic this year. Ease into the adjustments you feel are most likely to help you reach your goal. Your numbers are 5, 12, 23, 28, 32, 41, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Channel your energy into work, getting along with your peers and rethinking some of the decisions that are causing uncertainty. Get back to basics, and don't hesitate to ask for a favor if it pertains to work and advancement. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Set high standards, and put your energy into projects that make you feel passionate. Pull in people who stimulate your creative imagination and encourage you to explore new territory. Don't let trivial matters set you off. Make peace and love priorities. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep your thoughts and plans a secret. It's best to put everything in place before you share with others. An emotional situation will escalate, leading to changes you didn't anticipate. Work with what you have, and do the best you can. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Separate work from pleasure. Enforce changes that are in agreement with what others want. There is no point in fighting a losing battle. Stick to what is possible, and do your best. An energetic exercise will be uplifting. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A change that takes place at work or in your community may not be something you expect, but acceptance will be the first step to discovering how best to move forward. Branch out, and try something new and exciting. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Follow the rules. Don't let anyone railroad you into something that doesn't sit right with you. Do your due diligence, gather the facts and be ready to make adjustments if someone gets in your way. When one door closes, another will open. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Make your surroundings more accommodating. Clear a space that is conducive to the projects you want to get underway. If you need help, rely on someone who is always supportive and willing to do his or her part on your behalf. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* What you do will make a difference. Choose to let your actions speak for you, and allow your dedication and desire to do things prevail. Use your imagination, and associate with people who share your sentiments. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take the initiative, and follow through with your plans. Having the proper documents in order and your plan in place will give you the edge you need over someone trying to oppose or criticize what you are trying to accomplish. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take into consideration concerns presented to you. It's best to find a way to keep the peace by finding an alternative way to reach your goal. Mixing the old with the new will be more acceptable to someone who doesn't like change. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't feel you have to accommodate someone who is not heading in the same direction. Assess your situation, and do what feels right. You have to look out for your interests if you want to get ahead. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Personal improvements will make you feel good and grab attention and compliments that will boost your confidence. Hard work will lead to a chance to delve into something new and exciting. A change is in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are brave, spontaneous and entertaining. You are aggressive and resourceful.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	4	1					
			4	3				9
		2				5		6
							8	4
	4		9		1		2	
2	1							
4		6				2		
3				5	8			
					4	7	9	

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	5	8	1	6	7	4	9	2
7	4	9	2	8	3	5	6	1
1	6	2	4	9	5	8	3	7
4	7	3	6	5	8	2	1	9
5	2	6	3	1	9	7	4	8
8	9	1	7	4	2	3	5	6
2	1	7	9	3	4	6	8	5
9	3	5	8	2	6	1	7	4
6	8	4	5	7	1	9	2	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TESTIFYING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS — Solution: 5 letters

D	K	A	W	E	C	N	E	D	I	F	N	O	C	C
A	A	N	R	L	D	E	I	F	I	S	S	A	L	C
R	E	E	A	E	L	A	I	C	I	F	F	O	A	O
K	P	W	P	E	M	L	A	E	S	Y	A	F	N	M
H	S	S	P	L	P	A	Y	E	R	K	T	F	D	M
O	D	S	E	U	T	V	C	I	A	E	T	T	E	U
R	E	H	D	R	I	R	U	N	X	X	O	H	S	N
S	R	R	U	R	E	Q	D	C	I	A	R	E	T	I
E	U	O	P	T	N	D	L	H	C	M	N	R	I	C
T	C	U	E	I	A	U	H	A	R	I	E	E	N	A
A	E	D	N	G	S	I	G	M	O	N	Y	C	E	T
V	S	N	G	I	D	I	V	B	R	E	V	O	C	I
I	E	E	V	D	L	U	R	E	D	N	U	R	E	O
R	R	E	E	Y	R	U	J	R	T	R	A	D	E	N
P	T	N	E	I	L	C	A	S	E	S	U	A	C	S

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Attorney, Cagily, Cases, Cause, Clandestine, Classified, Client, Cloak and Dagger, Communications, Confidence, Court, Cover, Dark Horse, Examine, Exclusive, Hidden, In Camera, In Chambers, Inner, Inquiry, Judge, Jury, Laws, News, Official, Off the Record, Private, Privy, Rule, Seal, Secret, Secured, Shroud, Speak, Trade, Under, Wrapped Up

Yesterday's Answer: Newsprint

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Spurs boost playoff chances, oust Pelicans

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Gregg Popovich and the San Antonio Spurs came to the NBA's restart bubble looking to develop their young talent.

The playoffs might be a nice bonus.

For Zion Williamson, postseason hopes have to wait until next year.

DeMar DeRozan scored 27 points, Rudy Gay added 19 off the bench and the Spurs wasted much of a 20-point, second-half lead before hanging on to beat New Orleans 122-113 on Sunday. The loss, combined with Portland's win over Philadelphia later Sunday, eliminated New Orleans from playoff contention.

"We've just got to put ourselves in a better position to win," Williamson said.

The Spurs—bidding to become the first team in NBA history to make 23 consecutive playoff appearances—moved past idle Phoenix into 10th place in the West, a half-game behind Portland for the No. 9 spot that comes with a berth in the play-in series this coming weekend.

"I think it'd be huge," said Popovich, the Spurs' coach. "If we're able to be in that ninth spot, that's quite a victory and it says a lot about how this young group has come together with three of the starters out. I'm already thrilled with how they played, and it'd be really fantastic if we could get that."

Dejounte Murray scored 18 for the Spurs. Derrick White added 16 before leaving early in the third quarter with a bruised knee.

JJ Redick scored 31 points with a season-high eight 3-pointers for New Orleans, which got 25 from Williamson and 17 from Brandon Ingram.

"We just didn't have any competitive spirit to start the game," said Redick, who will miss the playoffs for the first time in his basketball life -- spanning high school, college and the NBA levels. "We were flat. We weren't talking. That's what it comes down to."

Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry called it a Game 7-type game beforehand but stayed with the plan of playing Williamson in short bursts. Williamson started the first, second and third quarters, coming out around the midway point of each.

In the fourth, Gentry took Williamson out with 6:53 left, putting him back in for the last-ditch try about two minutes later. But the Pelicans never got the lead back, and now have only two games left in the No. 1 pick's season. It's unknown if Williamson will play in those games.

AP

New Orleans Pelicans guard Jrue Holiday, center, dives for a loose ball between San Antonio Spurs guard Dejounte Murray (5) and guard Derrick White, right, during the first half of an NBA game, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

"We played 44 games without Zion so it's really kind of hard to put a stamp on exactly what the season is," Gentry said. "But I like the young players that we have. I think going forward we're going to have an opportunity to be a good team and compete at a real high level."

Trail Blazers 124, 76ers 121

Damian Lillard scored 51 points after a frustrating finish a night earlier, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Philadelphia 76ers.

It was a day of redemption for the star point guard. On Saturday, he missed a pair of free throws with 18.6 seconds to go and a 3-pointer with 9.5 seconds left in a 122-117 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Portland bounced back and pulled within a half-game of Memphis for eighth place in the Western Conference. The Trail Blazers increased their chances of qualifying for the play-in series, which will start Saturday.

The 76ers lost much more than the game. All-Star center Joel Embiid left in the first quarter with what the team called a left ankle injury, and he did not return. He contested a shot, then backed up and stepped awkwardly into the stanchion.

Raptors 108, Grizzlies 99

Pascal Siakam scored 26 points to help Toronto prevent Memphis from clinching a spot in the Western Conference play-in series.

Norman Powell scored 16 points and Kyle Lowry added 15 for the Raptors, who clinched the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference and their fifth consecutive season with at least 50 wins.

Dillon Brooks scored 25 points, Grayson Allen matched a season high with 20 and Ja Morant had 17 points and 10 assists for the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies dropped to 1-5 in the restart and are barely hanging on to eighth place in the West, with Portland, Phoenix and San Antonio close behind.

Celtics 122, Magic 119, OT

Gordon Hayward hit three free throws with 2:29 left in overtime, and Boston beat Orlando for its third straight victory.

The Celtics hadn't scored in overtime until Hayward went to the line after being fouled by Nikola Vucevic. His free throws put Boston up 115-114 as the Celtics scored 10 of the first 15 points in overtime.

Hayward finished with 31 points and Jayson Tatum scored 29, including the tying basket with 4.2 seconds left in regulation. Jaylen Brown had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Brad Wanamaker had 10 points.

Rockets 129, Kings 112

Austin Rivers scored a career-high 41 points off the bench and Houston used a big third quarter to pull away and cruise to a victory over Sacramento.

Rivers made six 3-pointers as Houston improved to 4-1 at Disney on a night the Rockets played a second straight game without Russell Westbrook, who has a bruised right quadriceps.

James Harden added 32 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for Houston.

The Kings fell to 1-5 in the bubble after being eliminated from playoff contention earlier Sunday when Portland beat the 76ers. Sacramento's playoff drought is now 14 years, which is the longest active streak in the NBA.

Thunder 121, Wizards 103

Rookie Darius Bazley scored a career-high 23 points off the bench, and Oklahoma City kept Washington the only winless team inside the bubble.

Bazley was 5 of 8 from 3-point range. Danilo Gallinari scored 20 points, and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 18 as Oklahoma City led from the opening bucket and improved to 3-2 in the seeding games.

Mike Muscala also scored 18 points. Chris Paul had 13 points and nine assists, and Hamidou Diallo finished with 13 points for the Thunder.

NFL remains very confident full season will be played

NEW YORK—Although commissioner Roger Goodell has subtly shifted his vow from playing a full season to playing a complete one, the NFL privately has a high degree of confidence that the 2020 season will be played in full, pandemic notwithstanding.

Yes, a hardened bubble in some cities may become necessary, with extended "voluntary" hotel stays by players, coaches, and essential staff (some teams will do it all week, non-stop; some are thinking about a Tuesday-to-Sunday approach), who would remain away from family in order to avoid becoming infected by kids, spouses, or others who may be living with the players, coaches, etc. But it's believed that, if the spread of the virus can be limited during training camp (there were zero additions to the COVID-19 list on Saturday), it will become easier not harder when the time comes to play games.

The dynamics will adjust soon, once padded practices begin. For teams that aren't practicing in their stadiums, where multiple locker rooms are available to be used (the Steelers have four at Heinz Field), it will be more difficult to keep players at least six feet apart while inside. (For some teams, locker-room proximity is already an issue.) The league remains confident, however, that transmission of the virus will be much harder to accomplish while practicing or playing, given that these activities will take place outdoors or in well-ventilated domes or facilities with high roofs.

Testing also is improving, with point of care tests recently introduced to supplement off-site testing, which takes longer to generate a result. Although the availability of reagent material could become a factor (especially if the virus continues to spread), the league remains confident that it will be able to conduct as many tests as needed.

Will there be glitches? Yes. Will some players be prevented from playing or practicing despite having no symptoms? Absolutely. Will it be enough to shut down the season or lose games? Today, five weeks from the first Sunday of the season, the league doesn't believe so.

Others connected to the process feel differently. Some are concerned that the protocols are more about optics than safety, aimed at giving the league office cover in the event that a player, coach, staff member, or one of their family members becomes infected, gets seriously ill, and possibly dies. Right or wrong, the people who run the league remain confident that it will work.

That may hard for many to accept as the fall college football season circles the drain, but pro football has significant and fundamental differences that point to success even if college football can't pull it off.

Either way, time will tell. In 32 days, the first game will be played, when the Texans visit the Chiefs. In 35 days, a bunch of other games will be played. After the first wave of games, if there's no spike in positive tests that wipes out rosters or position groups or chunks of coaching staffs, maybe it will work. ***(NBC)***

Astros, Athletics clear benches, empty seats

AP

Oakland Athletics and Houston Astros benches clear as Athletics' Ramon Laureano charged the dugout after being hit by a pitch from Astros' Humberto Castellanos during the seventh inning of a baseball game Sunday, Aug. 9, 2020, in Oakland, Calif.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— The Oakland Athletics and Houston Astros apparently were tired of playing nice.

So following two quiet games at the Coliseum, true feelings seemed to come out and tempers flared Sunday, months after Houston's sign-stealing scandal was brought to light by Oakland pitcher Mike Fiers.

Things got so angry the benches cleared—and the stands emptied, too, during Oakland's 7-2 victory over the AL West rival Astros.

The Athletics' ninth straight win was far overshadowed by what erupted in the seventh inning. The skirmish came less than two weeks after the Astros tangled with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the team they beat in the 2017 World Series.

Oakland's Ramon Laureano got hit by a pitch—for the third time in the three-game series—this one by Humberto Castellanos with one out in the seventh, and pointed at the rookie right-hander.

Laureano then began exchanging words with animated Astros hitting coach Alex Cintron, left first base, threw down his batting helmet and began charging toward him in the first base dugout.

Astros catcher Dustin Garneau left the bench to tackle Laureano before the A's outfielder reached Cintron, and a wild scene ensued.

"I was just trying to stop the situation before punches were really thrown and stuff got out of hand," Garneau said. "That's really what my whole goal was for that incident."

Players rushed out of both dugouts to join the fray. Players who were sitting in the seats, observing COVID-19 social-distancing protocols, also rushed onto the field. Several Astros streamed out from their tunnel area.

Laureano was ejected by plate ump Ted Barrett, and the umpiring crew could easily be heard yelling at the players to "get back to the dugout!" through a ballpark with no fans.

Braves 5, Phillies 2, Game 1
Braves 8, Phillies 0, Game 2

Ronald Acuna Jr. homered twice and Freddie Freeman also went deep to spoil Spencer Howard's big league debut and Atlanta Braves completed a sweep of the doubleheader.

Acuna also homered in Atlanta's victory in the first game. He had four hits in the second game and added his fourth career multi-homer game.

The Phillies had waited since the restart to send Howard (0-1) to the mound.

Freeman hit a two-run homer in the third for the early lead and Acuna had a solo shot to the opposite field in right for a 3-0 lead.

Indians 5, White Sox 4, 10 innings

In Chicago, Delino DeShields snapped a tie with a perfectly placed squeeze bunt in the 10th inning to lift Cleveland.

DeShields' bunt drove in Jose Ramirez, who started the inning on second as part of baseball's extra-inning rule for the pandemic-shortened season. Mike Freeman added a two-out RBI single that gave Cleveland a 5-3 lead.

Dodgers 6, Giants 2

AJ Pollock and Mookie Betts each hit a three-run homer, rallying the Dodgers to their ninth win in 12 games.

With the Dodgers trailing 2-0, Cody Bellinger singled off Giants starter Kevin Gausman with one out and Justin Turner followed with a single off submariner Tyler Rogers (3-3) in the seventh. One out later, Pollock sent a 3-2 pitch to left-center for his fourth homer and a 3-2 lead.

Royals 4, Twins 2

Hunter Dozier hit a two-run single in his first at-bat since testing positive for COVID-19, and prized prospect Brady Singer earned his major league win to lead Kansas City.

The Royals won their fourth in a row overall. The Twins lost all three at Kauffman Stadium and have dropped four straight.

Dozier hadn't played this season while recovering from the virus. He quickly delivered, putting the Royals ahead 2-0 in the first inning.

Rangers 7, Angels 3

Los Angeles Angels right fielder Jo Adell was charged with a rare four-base error when a fly ball from Texas' Nick Solak popped out of the rookie's glove and flew the few remaining feet over the fence in the Rangers' win.

The play was initially ruled a home run for Solak, but the official scorer changed it to an error after consulting with the Elias Sports Bureau.

Brewers 9, Reds 3

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich homered, tripled and drew a bases-loaded walk Milwaukee got its first home victory.

The Brewers avoided falling to 0-5 at home for the first time since 1970, the franchise's inaugural season in Milwaukee.

Justin Smoak broke out of a slump and delivered hits from each side of the plate during a six-run rally in the sixth that put the Brewers ahead for good.

Mets 4, Marlins 2

Jacob deGrom dodged trouble for five innings, rookie Andres Gimenez had three hits and scored three runs, and New York won a home series for the first time this season.

DeGrom (2-0) allowed two runs and seven hits, marking the 25th time in his past 27 starts he permitted three runs or fewer.

Seth Lugo tossed a scoreless ninth for his third save.

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 3

Mitch Moreland hit two home runs, including a walk-off shot over the Green Monster to lead Boston.

Xander Bogaerts drew a two-out walk from Thomas Hatch (0-1) to set up Moreland's game-winner. Matt Barnes (1-1) pitched a scoreless ninth to get the win.

Rays 4, Yankees 3

Michael Perez had an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning to lift Tampa Bay.

Mike Brosseau started the ninth with a double off Zack Britton (0-1) but was thrown out at third on Brandon Lowe's grounder. Lowe advanced to second on a wild pitch before Manuel Margot walked.

After both runners advanced on Willy Adames grounder to first, Perez lined a single to right as the Rays took three of four from the AL East leaders.

Tigers 2, Pirates 1

Spencer Turnbull pitched seven strong innings and Miguel Cabrera singled home the tie-breaking run in the eighth for Detroit.

Cabrera's single to left-center field off Richard Rodriguez (0-1) scored Jonathan Schoop, who was hit by a pitch with two outs and took second on a wild pitch.

Padres 9, Diamondbacks 5

Dinelson Lamet was brilliant in taking a no-hitter into the seventh inning and Fernando Tatis Jr. continued his remarkable power surge with a two-run homer off winless Madison Bumgarner, who allowed four of San Diego's club-record six long balls as the Padres beat Arizona.

Manny Machado homered twice off Bumgarner. Wil Myers, Francisco Mejia and Ty France also went deep for San Diego.

Lamet (2-0) had allowed only one baserunner, on a hit by pitch, until Kole Calhoun homered leading off the seventh. The right-hander struck out 11 and walked none in 6 2/3 innings.

Mariners 5, Rockies 3

Justus Sheffield pitched six shutout innings for his first major league win, Dylan Moore hit a two-run homer and Seattle slowed down Colorado.

Sheffield (1-2) gave up four hits without a walk and struck out seven in his longest stint this season. He worked his way out of a jam with a strikeout to end the fifth, then sat down two more Rockies in the sixth before reaching his pitch limit.

Serena fit and ready to play after 6-month break

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)— Serena Williams flexed and then kissed a sinewy right bicep to show down time well spent in training even without bench pressing.

"This is God given, thank you very much," the 23-time Grand Slam champion said as she thanked her mother, Oracene.

Williams now looks to flex her muscles on a tennis court for the first time in six months.

She is preparing for the inaugural Top Seed Open that opens Monday near Lexington, a recently added hard court tournament that serves as a tuneup for this month's U.S. Open in New York.

The WTA's first event in the U.S. since March features a spectator-free field that includes sister Venus Williams, a seven-tim Grand Slam winner herself, Victoria Azarenka, Sloane Stephens and rising star Coco Gauff.

Serena Williams, ranked No. 9, is competing for the first time since playing for the U.S. in the Fed Cup in February. The pandemic quickly shut everything down the next month, forcing an extended layoff.

Williams has a history of blood clots and pulmonary embolisms that have affected her lung capacity. She has been "super, super careful" in avoiding exposure to CO-D-19. The 38-year-old acknowledged during Saturday's virtual news conference that she's been "a bit of a recluse," in addition to owning 50 face masks and taking social distancing to an extreme.

"And everyone in the Serena bubble is really protective because at the end of the day, yeah, it's cool to play tennis, but this is my life and this is my health," Williams said.

"I've been a little neurotic to an extent, but that's just what I have to be right now."

Williams and Azarenka enter the tournament with open minds, hungry to resume competition.

"You want to just start somewhere," said Azarenka, a two-time Australian Open champ ranked 58th.

"You can practice for so long, but there's nothing like playing actual matches where you know the atmosphere. I don't really know what to expect because I've only played once in Charleston without the crowd. It's going to be an adjustment."

Messi set to recover from knock ahead of quarters

SPAIN (AP)—Barcelona is unconcerned with the injury that Lionel Messi sustained in the Champions League match against Napoli.

Messi took a hard knock to his lower left leg in the first half of the team's 3-1 win on Saturday. He was hit by Kalidou Koulibaly after slipping in front of the defender inside the area, earning a penalty kick for the Catalan club.

Messi was attended to by doctors for a few minutes but was able to finish the match at the Camp Nou Stadium.

He was still being treated for the injury on Sunday, but no major leg damage was reported by the club.

Barcelona coach Quique Setien said after the match that he didn't think the injury would be a problem for Messi.

Barcelona will have a rest day on Monday. It is scheduled to travel to Portugal on Thursday.

Seeking its first Champions League title since 2015, Barcelona will face Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Just when it looked like Messi had nowhere to go, the Argentine great bamboozled half of Napoli's team before scoring from an exquisite solo effort that helped Barcelona reach the quarterfinals in Portugal.

Messi's goal in the 23rd minute was arguably the pick of the 31 he has scored this season in all competitions.

Napoli appeared to have him in check when Messi received the ball all alone outside the right corner of the area.

Barcelona's all-time record scorer, however, dipped his head and took on the well-placed defense. He kept control of the ball despite being knocked over while going past three Napoli players. Three more tried to intervene but Messi found the angle to fire while losing his balance to send the ball past the goalkeeper and inside the far post.

Clement Lenglet and Luis Suarez also scored for Barcelona which advanced five months after it drew 1-1 in Naples before the pandemic stopped European soccer.

Barcelona will meet Bayern Munich in a "bubble" format of tight security to prevent a coronavirus outbreak from derailing the competition's finale.

Bayern sealed its spot after beating Chelsea 4-1 with two goals from Robert Lewandowski to complete a 7-1 rout over two legs.

"We are more than satisfied with our first half," Suarez said. "Bayern is a great rival and is one of the favorites, along with us, of the eight that will be in Portugal."

Messi's beautiful goal doubled Barcelona's lead after Lenglet headed in a corner in the 10th. The opener settled Barcelona down after Napoli's Dries Mertens had given the hosts a scare by hitting the post shortly after kickoff.

AP

Barcelona's Clement Lenglet is embraced by Barcelona's Lionel Messi after scoring the opening goal during the Champions League Round of 16 at the Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Saturday, Aug. 8, 2020.

WARRIOR

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drigo Vargas in the first round of their lightweight bout.

Nearly three months after his free win, Weaver returned to the cage, but bowed to Roosevelt Roberts in UFC on ESPN 9 via submission (rear-naked chose) in the second round of their May 20 tiff. With the loss, Weaver, who is famous for sporting traditional MOWA (an Indian tribe in Mobile and Washington Counties, Alabama) face paint and headwear at his weigh-ins and media appearances, dropped to a 15-5 record. He won eight straight bouts before Roberts snapped his streak.

Morikawa wins PGA; Woods finishes strong

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The best shot of his life, the shot that made Collin Morikawa a major champion, was never supposed to happen.

He knew the tee on the 16th at Harding Park would be moved forward at the PGA Championship. He said during practice rounds that wouldn't tempt him to go for the green. But this was Sunday afternoon, right after Morikawa had chipped in for birdie to break out of a seven-way tie, and at this moment was tied again with Paul Casey.

"I knew I had to hit a good one," he said.

The shot will be remembered as one of the best in a major that hardly anyone witnessed, not with spectators banned during the COVID-19 era for majors.

Morikawa hit driver on the 294-yard hole that was perfect in flight and even better when it landed, hopping onto the green and rolling to 7 feet for an eagle that all but clinched victory on a mostly quiet, chilly afternoon at Harding Park.

Tiger Woods finished his week on a high note with a closing 67 at the PGA Championship and said after his round he was encouraged by the progress he made in just his second start since February.

Both his driving and his putting improved on Sunday and he also took some encouragement that he was able to physically endure a grinding week in cold and damp conditions.

"I kept layering up, made sure that I stayed on the warm side, if anything, and tried to make sure I stayed, if anything, sweaty, kept loose. Overall the body reacted pretty good," said Woods, who was tied for 41st when he completed his round.

Woods said he would now turn his focus to the FedEx-Cup Playoffs and the possibility he would need to play three events in a row, depending on his post-season performance.

Currently 48th on the playoff points list, he would likely need to play the post-season opener in Boston and the second event in Chicago for a realistic chance to qualify for the Tour Championship, which he missed last season and won in 2018.

CLOSE

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cash prizes with Jin and Park taking home $800, Kim and Lim pocketing $650, and Kang and Lee getting $500.

The same amount were handed to the Top 3 placers in the Double-Peoria division, which also had a close fight.

Shayne Villanueva teamed up with Rep. Marco Peter (R-Saipan) and they had a net 68.20 to rule the division and earned the $800 top purse.

Settling for the runner-up prize of $650 were Harry Nakamura and Louie Tilipao, who matched the 68.60 net score of Paul Kaipat and Nick Sablan, but got the second place honors after prevailing in the second playoff hole. Tilipao and Nakamura had a birdie on the No. 9 hole against the par of Kaipat and Sablan. The two tied pairs earlier saved par on the first playoff hole No. 18.

Meanwhile, besides the Low Gross and Double-Peoria divisions Top 3 finishers, the Chamber and supporters of the tournament also handed out cash prizes to optional play (aggressive drive and closest to the pin) winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios, Double-Peoria division champions Shayne Villanueva and Rep. Marco Peter (R-Saipan), and Chamber executive director Maxine Laszlo pose for a photo during the awards ceremony for the 2020 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Jin gained an extra $150 for making the aggressive drive on hole No. 6 (sponsored by Island Training Solutions) with his 43 inches. In the closest to the pin contest, Roy Ada won in hole No. 3 with his 41 inches (from the pin); female player Soon Ja Yoo prevailed in IT&E sponsored-No. 7 (66 inches); junior golfer Sebastian Camacho topped Mobil Oil-backed hole No. 13 (18.5 inches); and Joe Tudela prevailed in Board of Education chair Janice Tenorio-supported hole No. 17 (44 inches).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Low Gross winners Joung Hoon Park, left, and Feng Chun Jin are joined by Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Maxine Laszlo for a photo after receiving their prizes.

Last weekend's tournament was a fundraiser with proceeds from the event to be used to support the Chamber's scholarship program.

Besides the optional play sponsors, the golf tournament was also supported by Triple J Saipan, Joeten Motors, Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc., Assurance Brokers, Inc., Hive Analytics, Kautz Glass Company, D&Q Saipan, Herman's Modern Bakery, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Latte Built & Fitness, McDonald's of Saipan, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., Power 99- Sorensen Media Group, Roil Soil Clothing, Saipan Snaps, StayWell Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Terry's Snack Bar, and The Shack Saipan.

Spurs boost playoff chances, oust Pelicans

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Warrior versus warrior

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, will face Brok "Chata Tuska" Weaver in UFC Fight Night in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sept. 12. ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The stage is set for the duel between two warriors, as Frank "The Crank" Camacho takes on Brok "Chata Tuska" Weaver in next month's UFC Fight Night in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Marianas warrior confirmed his return to the octagon cage on Sept. 12, just less than three months after losing his first fight of the season. Camacho's showdown with Weaver, a Native American from Alabama and whose nickname means "Choctaw warrior," is one of the 10 supporting bouts to the Thiago Santos-Glover Teixeira main event fight.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to represent the Marianas at the world stage again. I am looking at flying out this week to California to prepare and train with Team Oyama," Camacho said.

In facing Weaver, Camacho aims to regain his winning ways after dropping his last two bouts in the Ultimate Fighting Championship. He lost to Beneil Dariush (rear-naked choke) in the first round to cap his four-fight deal with UFC last Oct. 26, 2019 on a flat note. The 31-year-old athlete then secured another four-fight agreement with the MMA promotion company only to be defeated anew—this time by UFC newcomer and last-minute replacement Justin Jaynes (TKO in Round 1) in their June 20 collision in UFC Fight Night 173.

Overall, Camacho's record fell to 22-9 and he holds a 2-5 mark in UFC, with his pair of victories posted against Germany's Nick Hein (TKO) in UFC Fight Night 153 last June 1, 2019 and Australia's Damien Brown in UFC Fight Night 121 last Nov. 18, 2017. The Marianas pride debuted in the UFC stage in June 2017 in UFC Fight Night 111 in Singapore and though he lost to China's Jingliang Li (decision), Camacho impressed fight fans and officials, as he earned a Fight of the Night tag. The Team Oyama standout went on to gain Fight of the Night honors in his next two bouts despite winning only two of his last six assignments.

While Camacho has become a regular in UFC, his opponent is a relative newcomer, having seen action in the Dana White-led group twice. Weaver, after joining Dana White's Contender Series: Season 3, debuted in UFC Fight Night 167 last Feb. 15 this year and was handed the victory (via disqualification) after receiving an illegal kick from Ro-

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Close battle in Chamber golf tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Low Gross winners in the 2020 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament were decided by only two strokes with Feng Chun Jin and Joung Hoon Park prevailing in last Saturday's competition on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Park and Jin combined for a gross 61 to edge Sung Soo Lim and Ki Young Kim and Sun Hoo Kang and Young Woo Lee, who shot similar scores of 63. The pair of Lim and Kim later took the runner-up honors for beating Kang and Lee in the scorecard playoff hole No. 4 with the former earning birdie against the latter's par.

All Top 3 finishers in the Low Gross category received

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Shayne Villanueva, seen here teeing off during an earlier tournament, teamed up with Rep. Marco Peter (R-Saipan) in topping last Saturday's 2020 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.